

## 5.1

## Mixed emotions



Put these adjectives in two groups according to positive and negative meaning.

anxious  
content  
delighted  
frightened  
happy  
petrified  
pleased  
satisfied  
scared  
tense  
terrified  
thrilled  
uneasy  
worried

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How do the things in the pictures make you feel? Use the adjectives above to describe your emotions.

|    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1) | 2) | 3) | 4) | 5) | 6) |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|

**Adverbs of degree** tell us about the intensity of something. There are several types:

- **Intensifying adverbs** (increase intensity or emphasis): *absolutely, completely, extremely, highly, totally* [Sample sentence: She was *completely* shocked by the news.]
- **Diminishing adverbs** (reduce intensity or weaken the meaning): *slightly, somewhat, barely, hardly* [Sample sentence: The weather was *slightly* chilly in the morning.]
- **Limiting adverbs** (restrict or specify extent): *only, just, almost, nearly, hardly* [Sample sentence: She *almost* missed the bus.]

They are usually placed before the adjective, adverb, or verb that they modify, although there are some exceptions.

If we want to make a negative form of an adjective or adverb, we can add "not" to the verb, we can use an adjective or adverb of opposite meaning, or we can use "not very" with the original adjective or adverb. But be aware that the meanings of the phrases are not identical. Usually the phrase using "not very" is less direct, and thus more polite, than the other phrases.

You already know several adverbs of degree: *very, too, enough*. But there are many others: *absolutely, completely, entirely, extremely, highly, incredibly, really*, and so on.

OJO: You must be careful when using these adverbs because you can't use any adverb of degree with any adjective. You must think about the meaning of the adjective: is it "gradable" or not?

- Gradable adjectives describe qualities that can exist on a sliding scale. In other words, you can have more or less of that quality.
- Ungradable adjectives (also called extreme or absolute adjectives) describe extreme, absolute, or binary limits. They already contain the idea of "very" inside their meaning, so they cannot be measured in degrees.

Look at the spectrums below.



The words *warm* and *hot* are gradable, but the word *boiling* is not gradable because it already shows the extreme point, a limit. Water can be "very warm" or "really hot", but it can't be "very boiling". It's the same with the other set of words. We can be "slightly annoyed" or "very angry", but we don't say we are "very furious", because *furious* already implies *very*. We would say "absolutely furious".

Let's practice. Complete the sentences with a suitable adverb from the box. More than one answer is possible.

|            |            |           |        |         |      |
|------------|------------|-----------|--------|---------|------|
| absolutely | completely | extremely | really | totally | very |
|------------|------------|-----------|--------|---------|------|

- a) Sally was ..... astonished to hear that she had won the competition.
- b) As he entered the dark, empty flat, Alex felt ..... uneasy.
- c) Simon's father sounded ..... proud of his son's achievements.
- d) I arrived late for the film and James was ..... furious with me!
- e) Martin gets ..... irritated by people asking him the same questions time after time.
- f) I was ..... relieved to find out I didn't have to pay the bill after all.

Now let's do a listening (and speaking) exercise. Listen to this recording, where a man is talking about something frightening that happened to him. Say where the man was and how long he spent there.

Now listen again and describe in detail what happened to the man. Use these questions to help you.

- 1) Why was he in the building?
- 2) What time of day was it?
- 3) Which two things did he try to do?
- 4) Why was he there for so long?

Here is the question for the extract—similar to a text question—that you have just heard. All three options are mentioned in the extract. That is always the case in the exam. Listening carefully for sequence words—that is, words which tell you what happened when—will help you to decide what his first reaction was.

- 1) You hear a man talking about something frightening that happened to him. What was his first reaction?
- A) He sat down and cried.
  - B) He decided to call for help.
  - C) He tried to keep calm.

Before you listen to extracts 2-8, read these questions. Think about the words in bold and what to listen out for. Then listen and answer the questions.

- 2) You hear a man talking about how to deal with fear. Who is he?

- A) an ex -teacher
- B) an ex-pilot
- C) an ex-actor

- 3) You hear a woman talking to her son on the phone. How does she feel?

- A) furious
- B) anxious
- C) relieved

- 4) You hear a woman talking about something that happened in her home. The woman was most scared

- A) when she heard a burglar upstairs.
- B) while she was watching a horror film.
- C) when she suddenly saw a frog.

- 5) You hear a man leaving a phone message. Why is he proud of his daughter?

- A) because she is going to have a book published
- B) because she has won a writing competition
- C) because she is doing so well at university

6) You hear a woman describing what happened to her on a journey. Where did she end up that night?

- A) on a country road
- B) in hospital
- C) at her house

7) You hear a man being interviewed about a sailing accident. The worst part of his experience was

- A) being cold.
- B) feeling hungry.
- C) avoiding sharks.

8) You hear a woman talking on the radio about an incident abroad. Why was she able to escape?

- A) She was by the door.
- B) She wasn't noticed.
- C) She had a radio.

In the next lesson, we will look at the past tenses. Try to review the irregular verbs before the next lesson.