The Comparative and Superlative forms of adverbs are formed in the same way as those of adjectives.

Adverbs	Positive	Comparative	Superlative
adverbs having the same forms as their adjectives add -er/-est	long	longer	(the) longest
'early' drops -y and adds -ier/-iest	early	earlier	(the) earliest
two syllable or compound adverbs take more/most (Compound adverbs are adjectives + -ly. *careful – **carefully**)*	often quietly patiently	more often more quietly more patiently	(the) most often (the) most quietly (the) most patiently

Irregular Forms

Adjective/Adverb	Comparative	Superlative
good / well	better	the best
bad / badly	worse	the worst
much many / a lot of	more	the most
little	less	the least
far	farther/further	the farthest/furthest

Well is the adverb of good.
*She is a good cook. She cooks **well**.*

a) **further/farther (adv) = longer (in distance)** *His office is **further/farther** away than mine.*
further (adj) = more *For **further** information contact Mr Smith.*
b) **very + positive degree** *It's **very** hot in here.*
c) **even/much/far/a bit + comparative degree** *He behaves **even worse** than before. Jenny is **much more patient** with children than Julie.*
d) **most + adj/adv of positive degree = very** *She was **most** obliging. (She was **very** obliging.)*
e) **any + comparative (used in negatives and questions)** *This essay wasn't **any better** than the previous one.*

17 Write the comparative and superlative forms of the following adverbs.

1 early ....earlier.... (the) earliest
2 carefully ....
3 peacefully ....
4 bad ....
5 quietly ....
6 hard ....

18 Use the adverbs in the list to complete the sentences. Add any necessary words.

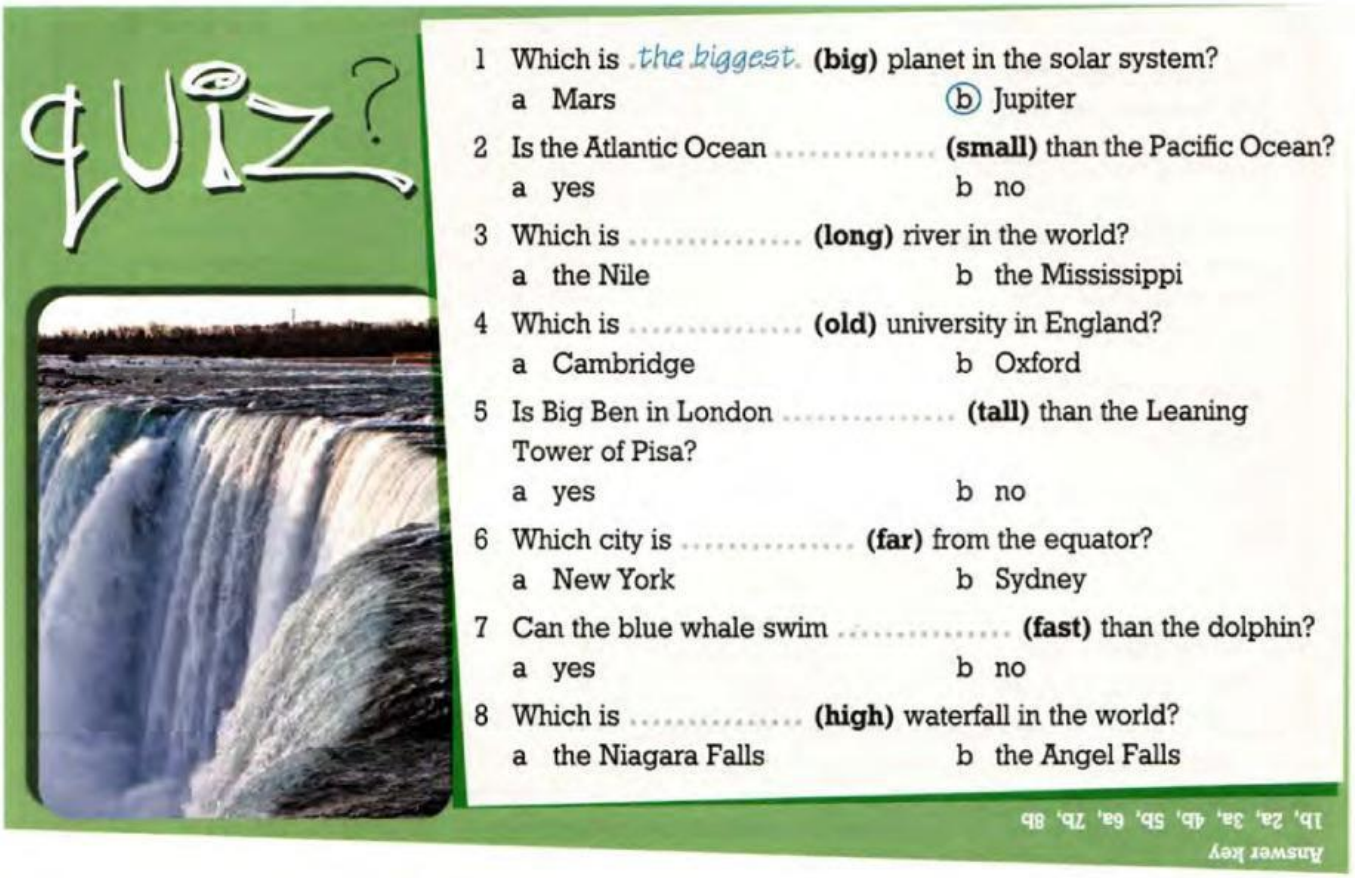
slowly loudly easily carefully quickly happily

1 Chris is jogging ..more slowly than.... usual today.
2 A cheetah moves much ..... a lion.
3 The teacher spoke ..... when the student asked for the question to be repeated.
4 Carmel completed that puzzle ..... the last one.
5 Kim drives ..... of all the members of her family.
6 Jack is smiling ..... anyone else in the picture.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 Adjectives / Adverbs / Comparisons

19 **Write comparatives or superlatives in the gaps. Then answer the questions. Check your answers.**



1 Which is *the biggest* **(big)** planet in the solar system?
a Mars ⓑ Jupiter

2 Is the Atlantic Ocean ..... **(small)** than the Pacific Ocean?
a yes b no

3 Which is ..... **(long)** river in the world?
a the Nile b the Mississippi

4 Which is ..... **(old)** university in England?
a Cambridge b Oxford

5 Is Big Ben in London ..... **(tall)** than the Leaning Tower of Pisa?
a yes b no

6 Which city is ..... **(far)** from the equator?
a New York b Sydney

7 Can the blue whale swim ..... **(fast)** than the dolphin?
a yes b no

8 Which is ..... **(high)** waterfall in the world?
a the Niagara Falls b the Angel Falls

Answer key
1b, 2a, 3a, 4b, 5b, 6a, 7b, 8b

20 **Underline the correct item.**

Living in London



It is 1) **very** / **far** more expensive to live in London than any other city in Britain. Rents are 2) **much** / **very** higher and it is 3) **most** / **far** difficult to find accommodation of any kind. Trying to find a flat in a convenient location is 4) **even** / **very** more frustrating. You can live in the suburbs, but it will take you 5) **much** / **any** longer to get to work and the fares are 6) **very** / **far** high. Wages are normally 7) **a bit** / **very** higher in London, but that doesn't mean you will have 8) **many** / **much** more money to spend since the cost of living there is 9) **most** / **far** higher than you would expect.

21 **Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the adjective/adverb in brackets, adding any necessary words.**

1 Could you speak ..... *more slowly* ..... **(slow)**? I don't understand what you're saying.
2 I think French is ..... **(difficult)** than English.
3 It's much ..... **(hot)** this summer than it was last year.
4 Karen ran much ..... **(fast)** Pamela during the race.
5 This car is too small for our family. We need something much ..... **(big)**.
6 Jupiter is ..... **(big)** planet in the solar system.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Adjectives / Adverbs / Comparisons 4

Too – Enough

- **Too comes before an adjective or an adverb in a sentence. It has a negative meaning and shows that there is a greater amount or degree of something than what is wanted.**

  too + adjective/adverb + to infinitive
  *The tea is **too hot to drink**.* (=It's so hot that we can't drink it.)

- **Enough comes after an adjective or adverb but before a noun. It shows that there is an amount or degree of something that is satisfactory or acceptable.**

  adjective/adverb + enough
  enough + noun } **+ to-infinitive**
  *She is **tall enough to reach** the top shelf.* (=She can reach the top shelf)
  *We have got **enough money to buy** a new car.* (We can buy a new car.)

Study the examples:
*Henry is **tall enough** to be a basketball player.* (he can be a basketball player – positive meaning)
*Henry isn't **tall enough** to be a basketball player.* (he can't be a basketball player – negative meaning)
*Henry is **too short** to be a basketball player.* (he can't be a basketball player – negative meaning)

Quite – Fairly – Rather – Pretty

- **Quite (= fairly, to some degree) is used in favourable comments.** *He's **quite** clever.* **Quite also means completely. It is used with adverbs, verbs and certain adjectives such as: alone, amazing, brilliant, certain, dead, dreadful, different, exhausted, extraordinary, false, good, horrible, impossible, perfect, ridiculous, right, sure, true, useless, etc.** *She's **quite exhausted**. (completely exhausted). She dances **quite well**. I don't **quite agree** with you.*
- **Rather is used in unfavourable comments.** *It's **rather** cold today.* **It is also used in favourable comments when it means 'to an unusual degree'.** *The film was **rather** interesting. (It was more interesting than we expected.)* **Rather is also used with comparative degree.** *It's **rather warmer** today than yesterday. (NOT: ~~it's quite warmer~~ ...)*
- **Fairly and pretty are synonymous with quite and rather. Quite is used before a/an.** *She's **quite a** good teacher.* **Rather is used before or after a/an.** *It was **a rather** hot day. It was **rather a** hot day.* **Fairly and pretty are used after a.** *She's **a fairly/pretty** good teacher.*

22 **Rewrite the sentences using *too* or *enough*.**

1 It's very slippery. We can't drive.
It's too slippery to drive.
2 John is rich. He can buy an expensive car.
3 These shoes are tight. I can't dance in them.
4 Leonard is strong. He can carry the table.
5 The volume is very low. I can't hear anything.
6 Ted is short. He can't see over the wall.
7 That dog is very tired. It can't run.
8 Sue is tall. She can reach the top shelf.
9 Linda ran very fast. She won the race.
10 Her house isn't big. She can't have a party.
11 Alex is young. He can't drive.
12 It's noisy. I can't do my homework.
13 Tom is clever. He can solve the problem.
14 It isn't windy. They can't go sailing.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 Adjectives / Adverbs / Comparisons

23 Underline the correct item.

1 Being a doctor is a **quite** / **pretty** stressful job.
2 This printer never works. It's **fairly** / **quite** useless.
3 Lisa is **rather** / **quite** more sporty than her sister.
4 It was **rather** / **pretty** a waste of time cooking dinner. Tim's just ordered pizza.
5 Robert is **quite** / **fairly** a funny man.
6 Kim is **rather** / **fairly** good at Maths, but she sometimes makes mistakes.
7 It is **pretty** / **rather** a long way from the bus stop to the school.
8 The witness's account of the robbery was **quite** / **pretty** true.
9 It was a **fairly** / **quite** interesting film but it wasn't the best I've seen.
10 John is **rather** / **quite** certain that he'll pass the exams.

24 Fill in: *quite* or *rather*.

A: I found that book a 1) ....rather..... boring one.
B: Oh really? I thought it had 2) ..... a good plot.
A: Oh, come on! The ending was a 3) ..... unlikely one, don't you think?
B: No, not at all. In fact, I think the whole book was 4) ..... interesting.
A: Well, if you ask me, you've got a 5) ..... strange taste in books.



Adverbs of Degree

	very (+++)	rather (++)	a little (+)
with adjectives, adverbs or verbs	**just, absolutely, totally, awfully, terribly, really, simply** *I'm **terribly** sorry, sir.*	**quite, rather** *It's **quite**/ **rather** late. We'd better go.*	**a little, a bit** *Can you wait **a little**/**a bit**?*
with adjectives or adverbs	**very, extremely** *She's very rude and behaves **extremely** impolitely.*	**pretty, fairly** *I'm **pretty**/ **fairly** sure he's lying.*	**slightly** *She's **slightly** fat.*
with verbs or comparative form	**very much, a lot,** *I **very much** appreciate your help. I feel **a lot** better now.*	**rather** *It's **rather** warmer today.*	**not ... much** *He **isn't much** taller than me.*

25 Fill in one of the degree adverbs from the table above.

A: How long will it be before I can see Mr Jones, please?
B: I'm 1) ....very..... **(+++)** sorry sir, but Mr Jones is 2) ..... **(+++)** busy at the moment. He has a lot of clients to see to this afternoon. Perhaps you could return tomorrow?
A: I'm afraid it's 3) ..... **(++)** important that I see him today. Could you tell him that Mr Peters is here? I'm 4) ..... **(++)** sure that he will want to see me.
B: OK. If you don't mind waiting 5) ..... **(+)**, I'll give him your message when he's finished his current meeting.

LIVEWORKSHEETS