

# 64 Common adverbs

## A Showing that something is important

| Adverb     | Example   | Meaning  |
|------------|---|--|
| only       | <i>She was <b>only</b> 17 when she got married. (It's unusual to get married at 17.)</i><br><i>We can walk to the station – it's <b>only</b> five minutes. (NOT 15 or 20.)</i>                    | We use <b>only</b> to say 'no more than'.  |
| even       | <i>It's cold here, <b>even</b> in summer. (In most places, it's warm in the summer.)</i><br><i>My older brother is 1.90 m, and my younger brother is <b>even</b> taller.</i>                      | We often use <b>even</b> before a fact that is surprising or difficult to believe, or to make (a comparative) another word stronger. |
| still      | <i>After 25 years, I <b>still</b> love my job. (I continue to love my job.)</i><br><i>Do they live in Paris now? ~ No, they're <b>still</b> in London.</i>  | We use <b>still</b> to say that a fact or situation continues to be true.  |
| especially | <i>We liked the towns in the south, <b>especially</b> Seville. (Seville was the best.)</i><br><i>It's very hot here, <b>especially</b> in July and August. (July and August are the hottest.)</i> | We use <b>especially</b> to say 'more than others'.  |

### 1 Underline the correct answer.

- ▶ The food is good there, only / especially the fish.
- 1 He was only / even 15 when he left school.
- 2 I've seen the film five times and I even / still enjoy it.
- 3 The students are very nice, still / especially Marcel.
- 4 There are even / only three bridges like this in the world.
- 5 It was cold yesterday, but it's even / only colder today.
- 6 I study hard, but my English is still / only terrible.

### 2 Put the word in brackets in the correct place in the sentence.

- ▶ It's six kilometres to the next town. (only) It's only six kilometres to the next town.
- 1 He's 75 and he plays tennis. (still) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 It's nice there, in the morning. (especially) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 There are three students in the class. (only) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 He works on Sundays. (even) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 She's at university. (still) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Rio is big, but Sao Paolo is bigger. (even) \_\_\_\_\_

### 3 Complete the sentences.

- ▶ He's ninety, but he still \_\_\_\_\_ drives a car.
- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ four people came to the party. It was a bit sad.
- 2 They have been in Singapore for ten years and they \_\_\_\_\_ like living there.
- 3 I love fish, \_\_\_\_\_ salmon.
- 4 He can't drive – he's \_\_\_\_\_ 15.
- 5 This question isn't difficult. \_\_\_\_\_ a child could answer it.
- 6 She enjoyed the book, \_\_\_\_\_ the first part.
- 7 He lives in Italy now, but he \_\_\_\_\_ speaks English most of the time.
- 8 The sign was difficult to read, \_\_\_\_\_ with my glasses.



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## B Degree

0%

100%

a bit / a little

quite/pretty/rather

very

really

extremely

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>a bit / a little</b> | Use <b>a bit</b> or <b>a little</b> before an adjective or comparative adjective, but not before a positive adjective. (NOT <del>a bit good</del> )<br><i>The lesson was <b>a bit</b> boring. It's <b>a little</b> warmer than yesterday.</i>              |
| <b>quite pretty inf</b> | = more than <i>a bit</i> , but less than <i>very</i><br><i>The film was <b>quite/pretty</b> interesting. The town is <b>quite/pretty</b> big.</i>  |
| <b>rather</b>           | = <i>quite</i><br><i>The test was <b>rather</b> difficult. She was <b>rather</b> tired after the journey.</i><br>If you use <b>rather</b> with a positive adjective, you are often surprised and pleased.<br><i>The restaurant was <b>rather</b> nice.</i> |
| <b>extremely</b>        | = a bit stronger than <i>very</i> . You can use <b>extremely</b> with adjectives, but not with verbs.<br><i>I was <b>extremely</b> tired by 6 o'clock. We were <b>extremely</b> busy on Saturday.</i>  |
| <b>really</b>           | = <i>very, extremely</i><br>You can use <b>really</b> with adjectives and verbs.<br><i>The restaurant was <b>really</b> good. The weather was <b>really</b> terrible.</i><br><i>We were <b>really</b> tired. I <b>really</b> liked the film.</i>           |

### 4 Circle the correct answers. Sometimes both answers are correct.

- ▶ It was quite / *a bit* interesting.
- 1 She's pretty / *quite* untidy.
- 2 Her new shoes are really / *a bit* wonderful.
- 3 My sister is a bit / *a little* untidy.
- 4 I really / *extremely* enjoyed the meal.
- 5 She was really / *extremely* friendly.
- 6 Tina's flat is a bit / *quite* nice.
- 7 The restaurant was rather / *really* good.
- 8 The hotel's a bit / *really* comfortable.

### 5 Rewrite the sentences using an adverb with a similar meaning to the underlined words.

- ▶ The film was a bit boring. *The film was a little boring.*
- 1 He was very good. ....
- 2 The holiday was quite interesting. ....
- 3 She's a little unfriendly. ....
- 4 The kitchen was extremely clean. ....
- 5 The room was a bit small. ....
- 6 Her new boyfriend is rather unfriendly. ....
- 7 They're really nice people. ....
- 8 The exam results were quite surprising. ....

### 6 Complete the sentences in a suitable way.

- ▶ I went to bed because I was extremely tired.
- 1 The food was excellent, but the service was rather .....
- 2 I like Maria's new boyfriend. He's extremely .....
- 3 I went to see a concert last night and I really .....
- 4 Nobody talked to me at the party, so I felt pretty .....
- 5 I thought the lesson might be boring, but in fact it was rather .....
- 6 We waited thirty minutes for the bus, so we arrived a bit .....
- 7 The dog looked horrible, but in fact it was quite .....
- 8 People think he's hardworking, but I know he's really .....



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