64 Common adverbs

A Showing that something is important

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

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

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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