

19 Adjectives (1)

A Gradable and ungradable adjectives

We had an **enormous** meal to celebrate my birthday.

I was **amazed** at the size of the statue.

My son's new flat is **really tiny**.

The food at the pub was **awful**. Don't go there.

I was **absolutely exhausted** after the long walk.

Dad was **absolutely furious** when I took his car.

It's **essential** that you buy a good dictionary.

Marcel had a **brilliant** game. He was the best player.

You must go to Istanbul – it's a **fascinating** place.

We're both **really terrified** of dogs. It's stupid, I know.

GLOSSARY

enormous	very big SYN huge	amazed	very surprised
tiny	very small	awful	very bad SYN dreadful
exhausted	very tired	furious	very angry
essential	very important SYN vital	brilliant inf	very good
fascinating	very interesting	terrified	very frightened

SPOTLIGHT gradable and ungradable adjectives

Gradable adjectives, e.g. *good, big*, can be used in comparative and superlative forms, and can be used with **very**.

▪ **very good/big**

Ungradable adjectives, e.g. *fantastic, tiny*, cannot be used in comparative and superlative forms, and are used with **absolutely**.

▪ **absolutely fantastic/tiny** (NOT *absolutely good*)

You can use **really** with gradable and ungradable adjectives.

▪ **really good/interesting**, etc. ▪ **really essential/fascinating**, etc.

1 Match the gradable adjectives from Box A with the extreme adjectives from Box B.

A angry ✓ small tired interesting good bad important big frightened

B enormous dreadful vital furious ✓ tiny terrified fascinating brilliant exhausted

► angry/furious

2 Underline the correct answer. Be careful: both answers may be correct.

- I thought the film was very good / awful.
 1 He was absolutely frightened / terrified at sea.
 2 I was very tired / exhausted by the end of the day.
 3 The orchestra was really good / brilliant.
 4 Matt was absolutely angry / furious when he found us in the garage.
 5 Her books about India are really interesting / fascinating.
 6 A dictionary is absolutely important / essential.
 7 We were really surprised / amazed at how many people were there.
 8 The programmes on Central Asia were very good / brilliant.

3 Complete the dialogues.

- Was it a bad film? ~ Yes, absolutely awful.
 1 Did you find the book interesting? ~ Yes, really
 2 Was it a big place? ~ Yes, absolutely
 3 It was a good match, wasn't it. ~ Oh yeah, really
 4 I expect you were tired at the end of the day. ~ Yes, absolutely
 5 Were you frightened in the hospital? ~ Yes, absolutely
 6 I think he's a bad actor. ~ I agree – really
 7 It's a very small car, isn't it? ~ Yes, absolutely
 8 Were you surprised your brother was there? ~ Yes, really



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B -ed / -ing adjectives

-ed / -ing adjectives	Examples	Meaning
amazed amazing	I was amazed at the quality of the dancing. (The quality of the dancing was amazing .)	very surprised, often in a positive way; very surprising SYN astonished ; astonishing
confused confusing	I was confused by the train timetable. (The train timetable was confusing .)	unable to think clearly; not clear
disappointed disappointing	I was disappointed with my exam results.	upset because sth was not as good as you expected; upsetting
embarrassed embarrassing	I was embarrassed when I forgot his name.	feeling uncomfortable because of sth stupid you have done; making you feel uncomfortable
fascinated fascinating	I was fascinated by the painter's use of colour.	very interested; very interesting
frightened frightening	I was frightened watching that film.	afraid, scared; making you afraid/scared
relaxed relaxing	I felt very relaxed on holiday.	able to rest and not feel worried; making it possible to rest
worried worrying	I was worried when Kiko didn't arrive.	unhappy because you think sth bad will happen or has happened; making you unhappy

SPOTLIGHT the suffixes -ed and -ing

Adjectives that end with -ed describe feelings. Adjectives that end with -ing describe the person or thing that makes you have these feelings.

- I was **bored** in the lesson.
- The lesson was **boring**.
- I'm **interested** in photography.
- Photography is **interesting**.

4 Circle the correct answer.

- ▶ Some of the beaches on Corfu were absolutely amazing / amazed.
- 1 I think everyone felt relaxing / relaxed at the party.
- 2 Marcel was a bit confusing / confused during the lesson.
- 3 The hotel didn't have a restaurant, which was rather disappointing / disappointed.
- 4 I was astonishing / astonished by his reaction.
- 5 I thought China was a fascinating / fascinated place to visit.
- 6 I think Jose felt a bit embarrassing / embarrassed about the cost of the meal.
- 7 We were all a bit worrying / worried when the storm started.
- 8 It was a bit frightening / frightened when the window got broken.

5 Complete the dialogues with adjectives from the table.

- ▶ Were you frightened? ~ Yes, absolutely terrified.
- 1 Did you know which direction you were going in? ~ No, I was a bit
- 2 You wore jeans to a formal party?! ~ Yes, I felt a bit
- 3 The weather was awful for the whole holiday. ~ Oh, that's very
- 4 Did you say you lost your passport in Australia? ~ Yes, it was very
- 5 It's hard to believe the children are only 8 or 9. ~ I know. They're
- 6 Were you afraid? ~ Yes, it was a bit
- 7 Do you like sitting in the sun? ~ Yes, I find it very
- 8 Was your father pleased with the hotel? ~ No, he was a bit, actually.

6 In the table above there are two examples for the first two adjectives. Write a second example for the other adjectives.

- ▶ I was amazed at the quality of the dancing. The quality of the dancing was amazing.



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