

# 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**

<b>enormous</b>	very big SYN <b>huge</b>	<b>amazed</b>	very surprised
<b>tiny</b>	very small	<b>awful</b>	very bad SYN <b>dreadful</b>
<b>exhausted</b>	very tired	<b>furious</b>	very angry
<b>essential</b>	very important SYN <b>vital</b>	<b>brilliant</b> <i>inf</i>	very good
<b>fascinating</b>	very interesting	<b>terrified</b>	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.

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

### TEST YOURSELF

## B -ed / -ing adjectives

-ed / -ing adjectives	Examples	Meaning
amazed amazing	<i>I was amazed at the quality of the dancing. (The quality of the dancing was amazing.)</i>	very surprised, often in a positive way; very surprising SYN <b>astonished; astonishing</b>
confused confusing	<i>I was confused by the train timetable. (The train timetable was confusing.)</i>	unable to think clearly; not clear
disappointed disappointing	<i>I was disappointed with my exam results. .....</i>	upset because sth was not as good as you expected; upsetting
embarrassed embarrassing	<i>I was embarrassed when I forgot his name. .....</i>	feeling uncomfortable because of sth stupid you have done; making you feel uncomfortable
fascinated fascinating	<i>I was fascinated by the painter's use of colour. .....</i>	very interested; very interesting
frightened frightening	<i>I was frightened watching that film. .....</i>	afraid, scared; making you afraid/scared
relaxed relaxing	<i>I felt very relaxed on holiday. .....</i>	able to rest and not feel worried; making it possible to rest
worried worrying	<i>I was worried when Kiko didn't arrive. .....</i>	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?
- 1 Did you know which direction you were going in?
- 2 You wore jeans to a formal party?
- 3 The weather was awful for the whole holiday.
- 4 Did you say you lost your passport in Australia?
- 5 It's hard to believe the children are only 8 or 9.
- 6 Were you afraid?
- 7 Do you like sitting in the sun?
- 8 Was your father pleased with the hotel?

- ~ Yes, absolutely terrified.
- ~ No, I was a bit .....
- ~ Yes, I felt a bit .....
- ~ Oh, that's very .....
- ~ Yes, it was very .....
- ~ I know. They're .....
- ~ Yes, it was a bit .....
- ~ Yes, I find it very .....
- ~ 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.



### TEST YOURSELF