19 Adjectives (1)

A Gradable and ungradable adjectives



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 ..... .

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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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LIVEWORKSHEETS