

Adjectives and adverbs (2) (**well/fast/late, hard/hardly**)

A

Good/well

Good is an *adjective*. The *adverb* is well:

- Your English is **good**. *but* You speak English **well**.
- Susan is a **good** pianist. *but* Susan **plays** the piano **well**.

We use **well** (not 'good') with *past participles* (dressed/known etc.):

well-dressed **well-known** **well-educated** **well-paid**

But **well** is also an *adjective* with the meaning 'in good health':

- 'How are you today?' 'I'm very **well**, thanks.' (not 'I'm very good')

B

Fast/hard/late

These words are both adjectives and adverbs:

- | <i>adjective</i> | <i>adverb</i> |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| • Jack is a very fast runner. | Jack can run very fast . |
| • Ann is a hard worker. | Ann works hard . (not 'works hardly') |
| • The train was late . | I got up late this morning. |

Lately = 'recently'

- Have you seen Tom **lately**?

C

Hardly

Hardly = very little, almost not. Study these examples:

- Sarah was rather unfriendly to me at the party. She **hardly** spoke to me.
(= she spoke to me very little, almost not at all)
- George and Hilda want to get married but they've only known each other for a few days. I don't think they should get married yet. They **hardly** know each other.
(= they know each other very little)

Hard and **hardly** are completely different. Compare:

- He tried **hard** to find a job but he had no luck. (= he tried a lot, with a lot of effort)
- I'm not surprised he didn't find a job. He **hardly** tried to find one. (= he tried very little)

We often use **hardly** + **any/anybody/anyone/anything/anywhere**:

- A: How much money have you got?
B: **Hardly any**. (= very little, almost none)
- I'll have to go shopping. We've got **hardly any** food.
- The exam results were very bad. **Hardly anybody** in our class passed. (= very few students passed, almost nobody passed)
- She ate **hardly anything**. She wasn't feeling hungry. (= she ate very little, almost nothing)

There's **hardly anything** in the fridge.



Note the position of **hardly**. You can say:

- She ate **hardly anything**. *or* She **hardly** ate **anything**.
- We've got **hardly any** food. *or* We've **hardly** got **any** food.

We often use **can/could** + **hardly**. I **can hardly** do something = it's almost impossible for me to do it:

- Your writing is terrible. I **can hardly** read it. (= it is almost impossible for me to read it)
- My leg was hurting me. I **could hardly** walk.

Hardly ever = almost never

- I'm nearly always at home in the evenings. I **hardly ever** go out.

100.1 Put in good or well.

- 1 I play tennis but I'm not very good.
- 2 Your exam results were very good.
- 3 You did very well in your exams.
- 4 The weather was very good while we were on holiday.
- 5 I didn't sleep very well last night.
- 6 How are you? Are you well?
- 7 George speaks German very well.
- 8 George's German is very good.
- 9 Our new business is going very well at the moment.
- 10 I like your jacket. It looks good on you.
- 11 I've met her a few times but I don't know her very well.

100.2 Complete these sentences using well + one of the following words:

balanced ~~behaved~~ done dressed informed kept known paid

- 1 The children were very good. They were well-behaved.
- 2 I'm surprised you haven't heard of her. She is quite known.
- 3 Our neighbours' garden is neat and tidy. It is very well-kept.
- 4 You should eat different types of food. Your diet should be balanced.
- 5 Ann knows a lot about many things. She is quite well-informed.
- 6 His clothes are always smart. He is always dressed.
- 7 Jill has a lot of responsibility in her job but she isn't very well-paid.
- 8 Congratulations on passing your examinations. well-done!

100.3 Are the underlined words right or wrong? Correct the ones that are wrong.

- 1 I'm tired because I've been working hard. RIGHT
- 2 I tried hard to remember her name but I couldn't. hardly
- 3 This coat is practically unused. I've hardly worn it. hardly
- 4 She's a good tennis player. She hits the ball hardly. hard
- 5 Don't walk so fast! I can't keep up with you. slowly
- 6 Why are you walking so slow? Are you tired? slowly

100.4 Write sentences with hardly. Use one of the following verbs (in the correct form):

change hear ~~know~~ recognise say sleep speak

- 1 George and Hilda have only met once before. They hardly know each other.
- 2 You're speaking very quietly. I can hardly hear you.
- 3 I'm very tired this morning. I hardly sleep last night.
- 4 We were so shocked when we heard the news, we hardly could speak.
- 5 Kate was very quiet this evening. She hardly said a word.
- 6 You look the same now as you looked 15 years ago. You've hardly changed.
- 7 I met Keith a few days ago. I hadn't seen him for a long time and he hardly looks very different now.

100.5 Complete these sentences with hardly + any/anybody/anything/anywhere/ever.

- 1 I'll have to go shopping. We've got hardly any food.
- 2 It was a very warm day and there was hardly any wind.
- 3 'Do you know much about computers?' 'No, hardly anything.'
- 4 The hotel was almost empty. There was hardly anybody staying there.
- 5 I listen to the radio quite often but I hardly ever watch television.
- 6 Our new boss is not very popular. Hardly anybody likes her.
- 7 It was very crowded in the room. There was hardly any room to sit.
- 8 We used to be good friends but we hardly ever see each other now.
- 9 It was nice driving this morning. There was hardly any traffic.
- 10 I hate this town. There's hardly anything to do and hardly anywhere to go.