

Lessons: Extreme Adjectives

Part 1

Difficulty Level: ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

In this lesson we will expand our vocabulary and practice using extreme adjectives, instead of "very" + regular adjectives. Too many students rely heavily on the adverb "very" and "really" in combination with adjectives.

Extreme adjectives are words that mean "extremely + adjective", and are not gradable. They either are or they are not.

Breaking Away From Basic English:

The purpose of this lesson is to practice using extreme adjectives and breaking away from basic adjectives.

Basic English:

*The movie we watched last night at Dan's house was **very, very good**.*

*If I continue to eat like this, I will become **really, really fat**, which is worrying.*

*Sometimes my brother speaks without thinking, leading him to saying **very mean** things.*

Improved English:

*The movie we watched last night at Dan's house was **excellent**.*

*If I continue to eat like this, I will become **obese**, which is worrying.*

*My brother speaks without thinking sometimes which leads to him saying **cruel** things.*

Adverbs That Work

Extreme adjectives sound strange when used in combination with the adverbs "very", "slightly", or "fairly". However, they sound excellent when used in combination with the adverbs "absolutely", "completely", and "utterly".

Incorrect:

*The time has come for you to clean your room. It's **very filthy**!*

*We should rest, our whole team is **slightly exhausted**.*

*I didn't think she would look so good. She is **fairly gorgeous**.*

Correct:

*The time has come for you to clean your room. It's **absolutely filthy**!*

*We should rest, our whole team is **completely exhausted**.*

*I didn't think she would look so good. She is **utterly gorgeous**!*

Tips:

The words "really" and "pretty" can be used with both regular adjectives and extreme adjectives.

"I've never seen the movies so busy before." "You're right, it was *pretty packed* tonight."

"Most of my friends are *really fascinated* with science, but I find it too difficult and prefer to study math."

"She was *really furious* when she saw him with another woman, at the bar last night."

Synonym Match:

Match the words from column 1 with the best-suited word in column 2.

Column 1	Column 2
1.) very good	a.) filthy
2.) very fat	b.) packed
3.) very mean	c.) fascinated
4.) very dirty	d.) excellent
5.) very tired	e.) obese
6.) pretty	f.) cruel
7.) very crowded	g.) gorgeous
8.) very interested	h.) exhausted
9.) very angry	i.) furious

Quiz

Use the correct adjective or proverb to fill in the blanks. Some questions have more than one correct answer and some adjectives can appear more than once.

- 1.) He smelled like cigarettes, and his clothes was _____ filthy.
- 2.) Many Americans have become _____ due to eating high calorie foods.
- 3.) She is one of the most popular K-pop singers and many men find her to be _____.
- 4.) When I returned from the gym I collapsed on the floor. I was _____.
- 5.) Bullies can be so _____.
- 6.) Different cultures can be _____.
- 7.) The subway was _____ as usual.
- 8.) Don't be so hard on yourself, your performance was _____.
- 9.) Most students are _____ exhausted during exam period.
- 10.) You look absolutely _____ tonight baby!

Daily Expressions & Idioms:

- 1.) **"Completely wasted"**: When someone is extremely drunk.

"It's embarrassing when he drinks, he gets completely wasted and throws up all over the place."

- 2.) **"Give you a hand"**: To help someone.

"Do you want to give you a lifting that box? It looks heavy." "I would give you a hand moving, but I already promised my mother I would visit, sorry."

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