



IIT Madras

BSc Degree

Copyright and terms of use

IIT Madras is the sole owner of the content available in this portal - onlinedegree.iitm.ac.in and the content is copyrighted to IIT Madras.

- Learners may download copyrighted material for their use for the purpose of the online program only.
- Except as otherwise expressly permitted under copyright law, no use other than for the purpose of the online program is permitted.
- No copying, redistribution, retransmission, publication or exploitation, commercial or otherwise of material will be permitted without the express permission of IIT Madras.
- Learner acknowledges that he/she does not acquire any ownership rights by downloading copyrighted material.
- Learners may not modify, publish, transmit, participate in the transfer or sale, create derivative works, or in any way exploit, any of the content, in whole or in part.



DEGREE ADVERBS

KARTHIKA SATHYANATHAN

DEGREE ADVERBS

- Used before adjectives, verbs or other adverbs to give informative about the extend or degree of something.

They are sad.

They are extremely sad.

I hate the smell of cigars.

I really hate the smell of cigars.

She is always late.

She is almost always late.

- Other degree adverbs are completely, fair, quite, rather, slightly, too, totally, very (much)

VERY AND TOO

- Before an adjective or an adverb, we use very when we mean ‘to a high degree’ and too when we mean ‘more than enough’ or ‘more than is wanted or needed’.

The weather was very hot in Chennai. Perfect for swimming. (not too hot).

It is too hot to stay in this room – lets find somewhere cooler. (not very hot).

- In informal spoken English, particularly in negative sentences, we can sometimes use ‘too’ to mean roughly the same as ‘very’.

I am not too/very bothered about who fails.

It is not too/very warm today, is it?

VERY AND VERY MUCH

- We don't use very before verbs but we can use very much before some verbs to emphasise how we feel about things.

I very much agree with your decision. (not very agree)

We very much enjoyed having you stay with us. (not very enjoyed)

- Verbs like this include agree, doubt, fear, hope, like, want, admire, appreciate, enjoy and regret.
- We can use very much or much (but not very) before the last four verbs.
- We can use very but not very much before participle adjectives.

She was very disturbed to hear the news. (not she was very much disturbed to hear the news)

It is very disappointing. (not it is very much disappointing)

- However, we can use very much and not very before a past participle which is part of a passive.
- The new highway was very much needed. (not the new highway was very needed).

EXTREMELY / VERY/ ABSOLUTELY / COMPLETELY

We use extremely, very etc with gradable adjectives and absolutely completely etc with ungradable adjectives.

Extremely + gradable adjective(effective, difficult, hard)

Hugely + gradable adjective (entertaining, successful)

Absolutely + non gradable adjective (clear, sure)

Simply + non gradable adjective (awful, terrible)

QUITE

Quite has two meaning

Quite : to a particular degree but not ‘very’

Quite : to a large degree or ‘very much’

I was quite satisfied with the result (fairly satisfied)

No, you are quite wrong (completely wrong)

When quite is used with ungradable adjectives it means completely.

Lena is not coming until tomorrow’. Are you quite certain?