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BSc Degree

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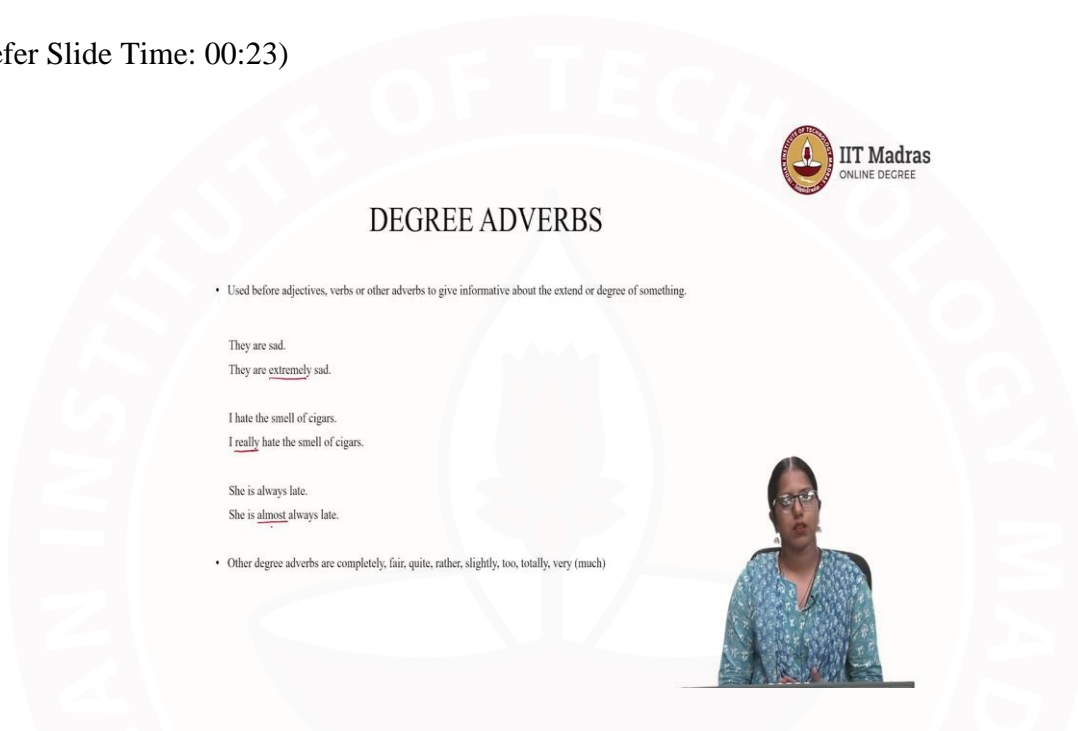
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English II (Advanced English)
Ms Karthika Sathyanathan
Humanities and Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology Chennai
Degree Adverbs

Hello all welcome to this module. In today's module, we will discuss degree adverbs.

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The slide is titled "DEGREE ADVERBS" and features a large, faint watermark of the IIT Madras logo in the background. In the top right corner, there is a small IIT Madras logo and the text "IIT Madras ONLINE DEGREE". The slide contains the following text:

- 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)

In the bottom right corner of the slide, there is a small video inset showing a woman with glasses and a blue patterned top, who is the speaker, Ms. Karthika Sathyanathan.

So, let us start with the question, what are degree adverbs? So, degree adverbs are used before adjectives, verbs or other adverbs to give information about the extent or degree of something. For example, I am saying they are sad; then I am saying they are extremely sad. Do you think there is a difference between these two sentences? If so, then I must say that you felt that because of this word 'extremely'. That is the only difference between sentence one and sentence two.

So, the word extremely makes all the difference. This extremely actually talks about the degree of something and in this case, it is the degree of sadness there is a greater degree of sadness and therefore the word extremely is the degree adverb. Now, there are other degree adverbs as well, let us check them out.

I hate the smell of cigars. I really hate the smell of cigars. What is the degree adverb here? It is 'really' because with the word really he is, he is trying to express a greater degree of hatred that he has for the smell of cigars. She is always late. She is almost always late. What is the

function of almost here? Degree adverb. So, there are quite a few degree adverbs; they are completely fair, quite, rather, slightly, too, totally, very much, very, etc.

He was completely blank. It was fairly good. It was quite dark. So, you must have used these words in different sentences, and these words are degree adverbs because they give information about the extent or degree of something.

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VERY AND TOO

- Before an adjective or an adverb, we use 'very' when we mean to say '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 – let's 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?

Let us check the use of very and too; these are two adverbs or degree adverbs that are often mixed up in sentences. They are often used interchangeably. It is okay to use them interchangeably in a lot of context. But if you want to improve your language and take it to a different level or now that we are looking at Advanced English grammar, let us check the accurate use of very and too in sentences.


So, before an adjective or adverb, we use 'very' to refer to a high degree and 'too' when we mean more than enough, or more than what is wanted or needed. So, 'too' has a higher degree than that of 'very'. Let us check the use of too and very, with these two examples, the weather is very hot in Chennai, it is perfect for swimming.

So, here are very is more appropriate than too, the weather was too hot in Chennai, it is perfect for swimming, it sounds okay, it is grammatically right. But the sentence would sound better if you say or you would be more accurate if you say the weather is very hot in Chennai or the weather was very hot in Chennai, it was perfect for swimming.

Now let us check this second sentence. It is too hot to stay in this room, let us find somewhere cooler. So here, someone is saying that it is unbearably hot and therefore let us find a different room and to refer to that unbearable heat, the person has used the degree adverb too, so rather than saying very here, the use of too should be preferred.


So, I hope I made that clear. In formal spoken English particularly in negative sentences, we can sometimes use too, to mean roughly the same as very. For example, I am not too bothered about who fails or it is also okay to say, I am not very bothered about who fails. It is not very warm today, is it? It is not very warm today. It is not too warm today, is it? So, both are fine, because we are using it in an informal context. But there are certain sentences where only one of these two words would fit in appropriately.

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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).



Now, let us check the use of very and very much. Can we use them interchangeably in all sentences? No, you could use very and very much interchangeably in certain contexts in certain sentences, but not in every sentence. There are certain sentence that take only very and not very much and there are certain sentences, that takes very much and not very. So, we will check what kind of sentences those are, what kind of words those sentences are composed of.

So, we do not use very before verbs, but we can use very much before some verbs to emphasize how we feel about things. For example, I very much agree with your decision. So here, agree is a verb and what I am using is very much and not very. I very much agree with your decision. So it is not right to use, I very agree with your decision. So, that is what this

point states, that we do not use very before verbs, but we use very much before some verbs, not again, not all verbs, some verbs to emphasize how we feel about things.

I was very much happy. I very happy does not make sense. Another example is we very much enjoyed having you stay with us. Similarly, to substantiate the point that very much does not go with all verbs. I will give you an example. I very much ate pizza, does not makes sense. So, let us remember the first rule that we do not use very before verbs, but certain verbs allow the combination of very much that is before it.

Now, there are certain verbs like agree, doubt, fear, hope, like, want, admire, appreciate, enjoy and regret that allows the use of very much before it, such as I very much agree, I very much doubt, I very much fear, I very much hope. I very much like. So, these are all examples of verbs that allow the use of very much before it. Now, the third point says that we can use very much or much, but not very before the last four verbs, that is, admire, appreciate, enjoy, regret.

I very much admired the dance program; possible, I much enjoyed the program, possible. But you cannot say I very enjoyed the program. Now let us check the fourth point. We can use very, but not very much before participle adjectives. Yes. If you have not learned about participle adjectives so far, it is very simple. You know, those adjectives that usually end with "ing and ed" can be classified in participle adjectives.

But that is not all about you know, identifying participle adjectives and this is today's homework. I want you to go and read about participle adjectives. So, in participle adjectives, you can use very, but not very much. For example, I was very disturbed to hear the news. It is not right to say I was very much disturbed to hear the news. Similarly, it is very disappointing. Proper grammatical sentence. But when I say it is very much disappointing, then it is ungrammatical.

That is because disappointing disturbed, these are all words that can be classified under participle adjectives. Again, I am asking you to go back to your lessons that have taught you participle adjectives. If not, I would ask you to Google and read about it, and if you have any queries with that, do post your queries in the discussion forum or come in the live session, participate in the live session and we will clear your doubt.

Now, let us check the next point. We can see very much and not very before a past participle, which is part of a passive. For example, the new highway was very much needed. So, you

should not be saying the new highway was very needed. That would be grammatically incorrect. So, I hope you remember the lessons on active and passive sentences; if not, add this also to your homework along with participle adjectives.

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EXTREMELY / VERY / ABSOLUTELY / COMPLETELY

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

Extremely + gradable adjective(effective, difficult, hard) - Collocation

Hugely + gradable adjective (entertaining, successful)

Absolutely + non gradable adjective (clear, sure)

Simply + non gradable adjective (awful, terrible)



Now let us check the use of extremely, very, absolutely and completely. So, we use extremely and very with gradable adjectives and absolutely and completely with non-gradable adjectives. Now, you may ask, what is a gradable adjective or what is a non-gradable adjective. Well, most adjectives are gradable and when I say that a word is a gradable adjective, I mean to say that we can have different levels of that quality.

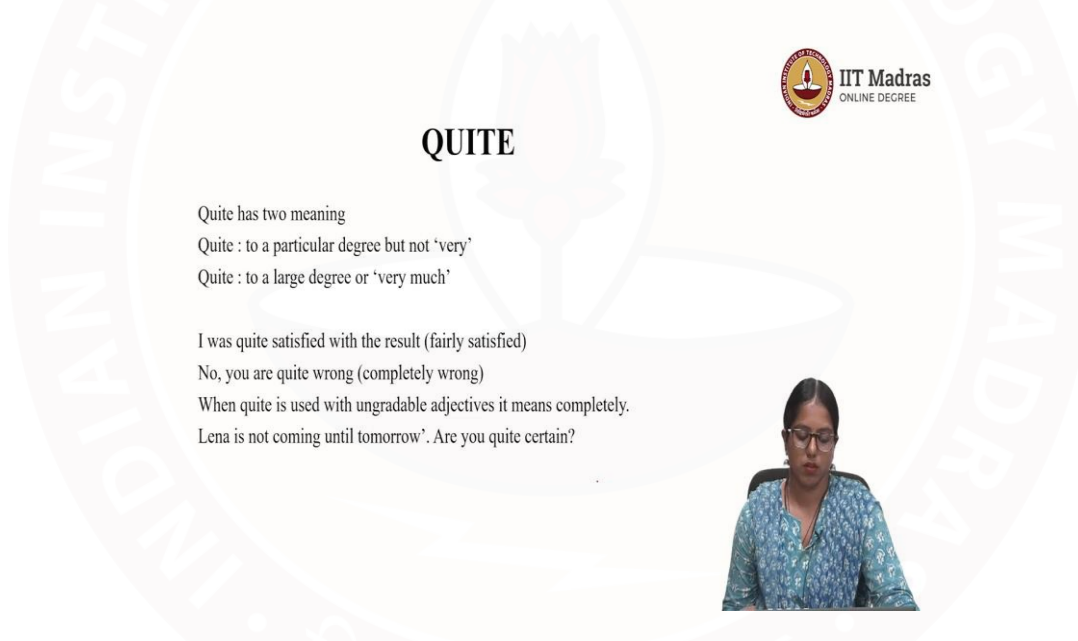
For example, when I take the quality cold, I could say it is very cold, it is extremely cold, it is a bit cold. So, we can make the word cold, weaker or stronger with the use of modifiers. So, all such words fall under the category of gradable adjectives. Now, there are non-gradable adjectives as well and one example would be the word finished. So, if I say it is a finished project, the word finished there works as an adjective, and that is a non-gradable adjective because if I say something is finished, it is done. There is nothing called it is a bit finished, or it is completely finished.

So, to such words, you cannot add modifiers. Now, let us check the use of extremely with gradable adjective; extremely does not go very well with non-gradable adjectives, but there are exceptions. So here, let us check the use of extremely gradable adjective. So, you could say extremely effective, extremely difficult extremely hard. So, this kind of word combination is called collocation.

I am sure you must have come across this term in previous modules. So, these are collocations with adverbs, and what kind of adverbs are we discussing today? We are looking at degree adverbs. So, we are looking at collocation with degree adverbs. Now, hugely plus gradable adjective, what are the adjectives that goes with hugely, it was hugely entertaining, it was hugely successful.

So, rather than saying that the movie was absolutely successful, it is better you say the movie was hugely successful. Similarly, rather than saying that it is, simply hard you could say it is extremely hard. That is a better way of collocating the word extremely with hard, or that is a better way of using hard. Now let us check the third point, which is absolutely plus non-gradable adjective, which is absolutely clear, absolutely sure. Similarly, it is simply awful, simply terrible because simply goes with non-gradable adjectives.

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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?

Now, let us check the use of quite, quite has two meanings. One is to talk about a particular degree but not very. So you could say, yeah, it was quite okay. Which means it was very okay, fairly okay. The second news is to focus or to emphasize on a large degree or when you want to say it is a lot. So, let us check the example sentences. So with that, you will be clear, I was quite satisfied with the result.

So here, you are kind of telling that you are quite satisfied. So when you are saying that you are quite satisfied with the result, you are kind of saying that, you are fairly satisfied with the result. No, you are quite wrong. So, when I utter a sentence like that, well, I am trying to say

that you are completely wrong, so here I am talking about a greater degree or you know, I am telling that a very much wrong.

So, when quite as used with non-gradable adjectives, it means completely, then I was not coming until tomorrow. Are you quite sure? So here, I am asking are you totally sure, are you completely sure that Lena is not coming tomorrow. So, I hope you understood the use of quiet in two different contexts. One to talk about a particular degree, but not very and second, to talk about a large degree or very much. So, I hope you enjoyed the session. I will meet you with a different topic on a different day. Until then, stay safe. Take care, bye.

