

# 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**

- ☐ Gary's father is a **well-known** writer.

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

- ☐ 'How are you today?' 'I'm very **well**, thanks.'

## B

## Fast/hard/late

These words are both adjectives and adverbs:

- | <i>adjective</i>  | <i>adverb</i>  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Darren is a very <b>fast</b> runner. | Darren can <b>run</b> very <b>fast</b> .                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kate is a <b>hard</b> worker.        | Kate <b>works</b> <b>hard</b> . ( <i>not</i> works hardly) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I was <b>late</b> .                  | I <b>got up</b> <b>late</b> this morning.                  |

**Lately** = recently:

- ☐ Have you seen Tom **lately**?

## C

## Hardly

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

- ☐ Sarah wasn't very friendly at the party. She **hardly** spoke to me.  
(= she spoke to me very little, almost not at all)
- ☐ We've only met once or twice. We **hardly** know each other.

**Hard** and **hardly** are 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. (= he tried very little)

I **can hardly** do something = it's very difficult for me, almost impossible:

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

## D

You can use **hardly** + **any/anybody/anyone/anything/anywhere**:

- ☐ A: How much money have we got?  
B: **Hardly any**. (= very little, almost none)
- ☐ These two cameras are very similar. There's **hardly any** difference between them.
- ☐ The exam results were very bad. **Hardly anybody** in our class passed. (= very few students passed)

Note that you can say:

- ☐ She said **hardly anything**.      *or*      She **hardly** said **anything**.
- ☐ We've got **hardly any** money.      *or*      We've **hardly** got **any** money.

**Hardly ever** = almost never:

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

**Hardly** also means 'certainly not'. For example:

- ☐ It's **hardly surprising** that you're tired. You haven't slept for three days.  
(= it's certainly not surprising)
- ☐ The situation is serious, but it's **hardly a crisis**. (= it's certainly not a crisis)

