

ADVERBS OF INTENSITY

They are adverbs that modify adjectives or other adverbs. They normally go before the adjective or adverb which they modify.

STRONG

extremely
completely
totally
absolutely
really
very

MEDIUM

rather
pretty
quite
fairly

WEAK

slightly
a bit
not at all

In general: *quite* is a little stronger than *fairly*; *rather* is stronger than *quite*; *pretty* is similar to *rather*, but more informal.

Compare:

Fairly _____ **quite** _____ **rather/pretty** _____ **very**

We use *quite* **before a/an**, but *fairly* and *pretty* **after a**.

Ex: It was **quite an** interesting film/ It was **a pretty** interesting film

We can use *rather* **before or after a/an**.

Ex: It was **rather an** interesting film/ It was **a rather** interesting film.

Quite and *rather* can also modify verbs. They go before a full verb, but after an auxiliary verb.

Ex: She **quite enjoyed** the film.

I **rather like** driving at night.

He's **quite enjoying** himself.

Only *rather* can be used before comparatives.

Ex: **rather colder** **rather more** expensive