

Adverbs

ADVERBS OF DEGREE

Adverbs of Degree

Adverbs of degree answer the question, “To what extent?”

Adverbs of degree tell us about the intensity of something.

They also tell us about the completeness of something.


They are usually placed before the item that is modified.

Do not confuse adverbs of degree with adverbs of manner.

‘Very’ is a commonly used adverb of degree that can usually be replaced with a better word.

Adverbs of Degree

There are many adverbs of degree and they can be ordered.

Adverb of degree	Intensity	Example
absolutely	Highest	I trust my doctor <i>absolutely</i> .
completely	 subjective values	Mary is <i>completely</i> devoted to her cats.
extremely		My boss is <i>extremely</i> greedy.
mostly		The audience was <i>mostly</i> females.
largely		The failure was <i>largely</i> down to bad luck.
quite		The meal was <i>quite</i> tasty.
relatively		James is in <i>relatively</i> good health.
partially		The painting was only <i>partially</i> covered by the cloth.
hardly		Andy <i>hardly</i> touched his food.
barely		John <i>barely</i> manages to get to work on time.
scarcely	Lowest	Alan said <i>scarcely</i> a word during the meeting.

Adverbs of Degree – Examples #1

Adverbs of degree tell us about the intensity of something.

- In winter, it is *extremely* cold here.
- The boss *strongly* criticised the project manager.
- Jane thinks her new boyfriend is *absolutely* wonderful.

- Peter paid *little* attention during the meeting.
- The food in the canteen is *quite* nice.
- I'm not *entirely* convinced my your argument.

Adverbs of Degree – Examples #2

Adverbs of degree tell us about the completeness of something.

- Anne has *completely* finished her report.
- Jim has *almost* finished his report.
- Mandy has *partly* finished her report.
- Bob *just* started on his report yesterday.

Adverbs of Degree – Examples #3

Do not confuse adverbs of degree with adverbs of manner.

- He speaks Dutch *fairly* fluently.
- The police treated him *fairly*.
- I'm *terribly* sorry!
- Paul explained the problem *terribly*.

Adverbs of Degree – Examples #4

‘Very’ is a commonly used adverb of degree that can usually be replaced with something better.

- Peter **ran** *very* **quickly** to the other end of the pitch.
- Peter **sprinted** to the other end of the pitch.

- After the marathon race, John was *very* **tired**.
- After the marathon race, John was **exhausted**.

- I’m on a diet and I’m *very* **hungry**.
- I’m on a diet and I’m **famished**.