# Intensifiers

# (*very, awfully, absolutely, extremely etc.*)

Intensifiers are adverbs or adverbial phrases that strengthen the meaning of other expressions and show emphasis. Words that we commonly use as intensifiers include *absolutely*, *completely, extremely, highly, rather, really, so, too, totally, utterly, very* and *at all*:

* She was **so** upset. I felt **extremely** sorry for her.
* She has a **very** strict teacher.
* Don’t work **too** hard. Sometimes you’ll get more done by relaxing a bit.
* I don’t think she understood the topic and her essay was **rather** a mess.
* She’s **really** offended her sister.
* At all is a very common intensifier with negative expressions:
* Are there no suitable DVDs **at all**?
* I’m afraid I’m not **at all** interested.
* We also use on earth and ever as intensifiers with wh-words:
* **What on earth** is he doing? (suggests disapproval)
* **Why** did I **ever** invite them to stay with us? (suggests that there were problems)

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**B. Make a chart like the one below showing which of the following intensifiers can be used with each adjective in A on the opposite page:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Very | good, bad, boring, impressive, mediocre, memorable, second rate, special |
| Awfully | good, bad, boring, mediocre |
| Absolutely | appalling, awful, frightful, horrible, rotten, lousy,  astonishing, extraordinary, fabulous, fantastic, first-rate, great, magnificent, marvelous, out of this world, outstanding, reasonable, remarkable, sensational, splendid, superb, tremendous, wonderful |
| Extremely | bad, boring,  good, impressive, mediocre, satisfactory, second-rate |
| Really | bad, appalling, awful, boring, dreadful, forgettable, frightful, horrible, lousy, nothing special, nothing to write home about, rotten, run-of-the-mill, second-rate,  good, astonishing, excellent, exceptional, extraordinary, fabulous, fantastic, first-rate, great, impressive, magnificent, marvelous, mediocre, memorable, not bad, out of this world, outstanding, reasonable, remarkable, satisfactory, sensational, special, splendid, superb, tremendous, wonderful |
| Dreadfully | bad, boring,  mediocre |
| Exceptionally | bad, awful, boring, dreadful, horrible, rotten, run-of-the-mill  good, impressive, mediocre |
| Extraordinarily | bad, awful, boring,  good, |
| Incredibly | bad, awful, boring, good, impressive, mediocre |
| Perfectly | Awful, dreadful, frightful,  Adequate, appalling, astonishing, excellent, marvelous, remarkable, satisfactory, splendid. |
| Remarkably | bad,  good, impressive, satisfactory |
| Terribly | good, bad, terrible, forgettable, impressive, mediocre, run-of-the-mill, second rate. |
| Thoroughly | boring, forgettable, run-of-the-mill,  appalling, astonishing, mediocre, satisfactory, splendid |
| Totally | awful, boring, dreadful, forgettable, rotten, run-of-the-mill,  appalling, astonishing, exceptional, extraordinary, first-rate, marvelous, mediocre, sensational |
| unbelievably | bad, appalling, awful, boring, dreadful, frightful, horrible, second-rate,  good, astonishing, impressive, mediocre, run-of-the-mill, special, splendid, superb |

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**3.5 Punctuation** **Effective writing**

**A** Work in pairs. Explain the differences in meaning between each of these sentences:

**1** He likes his sister's friends and colleagues.

*The friends and colleagues of his (one) sister*

He likes his sisters' friends and colleagues.

*(The friends and colleagues of his (several) sister*

He like his sisters, friends and colleagues.

*his (several) sisters and his own friends and colleagues*

2 Her sister, who works in America, is a film star.

* she has only one sister

Her sister who works in America is a film star.

* she has more than one sister and only the one who works in America as a film star

3 Roger Rabbit was wonderful.

* *The character was wonderful*

"Roger Rabbit" was wonderful.

* *the film was wonderful*

4 I don't watch television - much!

* *Probably ironic or self-mocking, the speaker probably watches more than he o she should.*

I don't watch television much.

* *straightforward statement*

5 They said it was entertaining.

* straightforward statement

They said it was entertaining!!

* I think that’s amazing

They said it was "entertaining".

* that was the word they used, but that seems a strange world to use in the circumstances

They said it was entertaining?

* I found that hard to believe

They said it was entertaining....

* but they probably had some reservations OR I'm about to tell you more

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**B Look at these examples and use your own ideas to fill the gaps:**

**Apostrophes ( ' ' ' )**

If she's your aunt, she's either your ………… or your ……………….

*If she's your aunt, she's either your* ***mother's sister*** *or your* ***mother's sister***

She was born in '71 and left school in ………

*She was born in '71 and left school in* ***89.***

It's important to distinguish between ……… ( = it is) and …………. (possessive).

*It's important to distinguish between* ***it's*** *( = it is) and* ***its*** *(possessive).*

………….and ………….are contracted forms of *do not* and *they are.*

***Don't*** and ***they're*** are contracted forms of *do not* and *they are.*

**Commas ( , , , )**

When .......... are used, it makes a long sentence easier to , doesn't it?

*When* **commas** *are used, it makes a long sentence easier to , doesn't it?*

*My four favorite film stars are: ..........., ..........., ............. and ..........*

My four favorite film stars are:***Michael Douglas***, ***Mel Gibson***, ***Harrison Ford*** and ***Woody Allen.***

We thought, however, that the music was too loud.

Hello, everyone, my name's Bond, James Bond.

James Dean, who died in 1955, is still greatly admired

If you enjoyed the show, why didn't you tell me?

When the film was over ........................

*When the film was over* ***we stayed sitting in our seats to watch the final credits.***

**BUT** notice the lack of commas here:

Why didn't you tell me if you enjoyed the show?

The film that we saw yesterday was very enjoyable.

He said that he had enjoyed the show.

**Colons ( : : : )**

I thought it was a good film: the photography was marvellous, the acting

was good and the story was exciting.

In the words of the song: 'There's no business like show business.'

There are ……………. members of my family …………. and me.

There are ***four*** members of my family ***my father and mother, my sister*** and me.

**Quotation marks** (""'') either single or double

'Moonstruck' was a far more enjoyable film than 'Rambo'.

Rambo is a "human war machine", as his colonel observes.

I was feeling 'down'.

Should it be 'a university' or 'an university'?

"What a lovely day!" she exclaimed, "I feel like taking the day off."

"Well, …………., thank you …………., ladies and …………., the lecturer said at the end of the lecture, questions?"

"Well, ***that all I have to say,*** thank you ***for listening,*** ladies and ***gentlemen***," the lecturer said at the end of the lecture, ***"Does anyone have any*** questions?"

**Semi-colons** ( ; ; ; ) are used as a kind of 'weak' full stop or 'strong' comma in formal writing; in informal writing a dash is often used instead.

It was a hilarious story; everyone enjoyed it enormously.

'Trading Places' was a wonderful the director was John Landis.

'Trading Places' was a wonderful ***film;*** the director was John Landis.

**Dashes** (------- ) are used to add an afterthought - sometimes.

It was an excellent film - apart from the violence. .

'Roger Rabbit' was a great ***film*** - we all enjoyed it.

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**C. Rewrite this film review, adding the necessary commas, apostrophes,**

**quotation marks, etc. And also split the text into four paragraphs.**

*A Nightmare on Elm Street* made one experienced journalist scream with terror at the preview screening I went to. The noise frightened me more than the film itself written and directed by Wes Cravenan ex-professor of humanities. Its all very spooky but not at all bloody says Wes of this teen-orientated horror film which has a ghostly and ghastly murderer attacking the children of Elm Street not in their waking hours but in their dreams. John Saxon and Ronee Blakley dont believe all this and he a policeman goes looking for a real madman. But we know better and so does Heather Langenkamp as their daughter. Langenkamp apparently known in America as the worlds most promising Scream Queen screams louder than the journalist. I just cringed. I think Craven has done better though one has to admit that its a good idea followed through with efficiency and state of the art special effects. Perhaps my trouble was that I wanted the Evil One to win. I cant stand those awful kids.

**Sample Answer:**

*'A Nightmare on Elm Street'* made one experienced journalist scream with terror at the preview screening I went to. The noise frightened me more than the film itself, written and directed by Wes Cravenan, ex-professor of humanities.

"It's all very spooky but not at all bloody," says Wes of this teen-orientated horror film, which has a ghostly and ghastly murderer attacking the children of Elm Street not in their waking hours but in their dreams.

John Saxon and Ronee Blakley don't believe all this, and he, a policeman, goes looking for a real madman. But we know better, and so does Heather Langenkamp as their daughter. Langenkamp, apparently known in America as the world's most promising Scream Queen, screams louder than the journalist. I just cringed.

I think Craven has done better, though one has to admit that it's a good idea followed through with efficiency and state of the art special effects. Perhaps my trouble was that I wanted the Evil One to win. I can't stand those awful kids.

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**At .... and by ....**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **SN** | **Phrase** | **Meaning** |
| 1 | at a loss | **not knowing what to do**  I’m at a loss to explain what happened. |
| 2 | at a loss | running without making a profit  The show closed because it was running at a loss. |
| 3 | at cross purposes | **If two or more people are at cross purposes, they do not understand each other because they are talking about different subjects without realizing this:**  The two were always working at cross-purposes. |
| 4 | at short notice  at least | **at short notice: without previous warning**  I can't cancel my plans at such short notice.  **at least: no less than**  *You need to book* no less than *six months in advance.* |
| 5 | at the expense of | causing harm  Would you stop making jokes at my expense? |
| 6 | at all time | **constantly, continuously**  I wish you'd stop criticizing me all the time. |
| 7 | at random | **without any plan**  *They picked names out of the telephone book at random.* |
| 8 | at least  at any rate | **at least: any way**  *A two per cent pay rise is not very much, but at least it’s better than nothing.*  **at any rate: any way**  Well, I'm not going home on foot, at any rate. |
| 9 | at the last minute | **moment before it was too late**  At the last minute, we found our tickets. |
| 10 | at any moment | **at any moment: very soon – any way**  I'm sure that our friends will arrive at any moment. |
| 11 | at our expense | **we will pay**  If you need to stay overnight, please book a hotel room at our expense***.*** |
| 12 | at a glance | **taking one quick look**  One could tell at a glance that she was a kind person. |
| 13 | at long last | **finally**  At long last the government is starting to listen to our problems. |
| 14 | by all means | **certainly, surely**  By all means, come to our party if you end up being free on Saturday night! |
| 15 | by means of | **using**  The load was raised by means of a crane. |
| 16 | by the way | **incidentally**  Oh, by the way, my name's Prakash. |
| 17 | by any chance | **perhaps**  I wonder if you know what is on at the cinema tonight, by any chance*?* |
| 18 | by the thousand | **quantities of a thousand or more**  These machines are manufactured by the thousand. |
| 19 | by sight  by name | **by sight: from her appearance**  I know that person by sight.  **by name: what she's called**  We knew only one of them by name. |
| 20 | by myself | **by myself: alone**  All the instructors are carefully selected by myself and they offer a very special service. |

Answers

***What do these phrases printed in italics mean?***

1 It was a difficult problem and I was ***uncertain*** *what to do.***(at a loss)**

2 The show closed because it was running ***without making a profit****.* **(at a loss)**

3 The misunderstanding arose because we were talking ***about different things but didn't realise it.*** *.***(at cross purposes)**

4 ' It's impossible to get tickets for such a popular show ***without previous warning***– you need to book ***no less than***six months in advance. **(at short notice) (at least)**

5 She was working much too hard ***causing harm*** *to* her health. (at the expense of)

6 When abroad, it's advisable to carry your passport *constantly. (at all times)*

7 The winners are selected ***without any plan***by a computer. (at random)

8 It was a wonderful show - ***anyway***I enjoyed it. (at least) (at any rate)

9 The hero was rescued ***a moment before it was too late.(at the last minute)***

10 I'm sure that our friends will arrive ***very soon — anyway***I hope so. (at any moment, at any rate, at least)

11 If you need to stay overnight, please book a hotel room ***and we will pay.(at our expense)***

12 I could tell ***by taking one quick look***that there had been a mistake. (at a glance)

13 ***Finally***they did arrive, but by that time the show was nearly over. (at long last)

14 'May I open the window?' ***'Certainly!'(by all means)***

15 A compact disc player operates ***using***digital signals. (by means of)

16 ***Incidentally****,* have you seen the new Steven Spielberg film? (By the way)

17 I wonder if you know what is on at the cinema tonight, ***perhaps****?(by any chance)*

18 These machines are manufactured ***in quantities of a thousand or more.(by the thousand)***

19 I know that person ***from her appearance***but not ***what she's called.(by sight) (by name)***

20 I don't like going to the cinema *alone. (by myself)*

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**4 Food and drink**

4.1 In this chapter, we will talk about favorite appetizers (**a small amount of food eaten before a meal – the first part of a meal)**, main course and desserts (**sweet food eaten at the end of a meal)**. Also we will talk about vegetables, fruit and snacks (**a small amount of food that is eaten between meals, or a very smallmeal**)

**B. Fill the gaps in these sentences with suitable words:**

1 A nutritionist can tell you how much fat, **carbohydrates, protein** , and **vitamins** various foodstuffs contain.

2 I'll give you my **recipe** for pasta salad: it's a very easy **dish** to make if you have all the right **ingredient**s.

3 Many **vegetarian**s don't eat meat because it's against their **principle**s to kill animals. A vegan doesn't even eat milk products (cheese, **butter/yogurt / milk / milk / ice cream**etc.).

4 A loaf of bread is cut into **slices** to make sandwiches.

5 **Wholemeal** bread contains more **fibre/ goodness** than white bread.

6 If a product has a **sell by** date on the label you will know how long the product is supposed to **keep / last.** The label may also tells you if it contains any artificial **additives.**

7 His specialty is pancakes (made from **eggs, flour and milk**) he never uses a **spatula** to turn them over but makes a great show of **tossing** them.

8 In a restaurant it's usually better value to have the **set** meal than to choose from the a la carte **menu.**

9 I've got no time to have a **proper/cooked/full/big** lunch but I'll try to **grab** a sandwich.

**10** Thinking about food makes my mouth **water** and my tummy start to **rumble** !

**C Match the foods in the first column with the ways of preparing and cooking in the second and third columns. Then write sentences like this:**

.......... are / is usually ........... and then .........

**Example:**

***Onions are usually peeled / chopped / sliced and then fried.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Onions | **peeled** ( **to remove the skin of fruit and vegetables)**, **chopped** ( **to cut something into pieces with an axe, knife, or other sharp instrument** )/ sliced (**cut into thin, flat pieces)** + fried  ***Onions are usually peeled / chopped / sliced and then fried.*** |
| pancake batter:  **a thin, flat, round cake made from a mixture of flour, milk, and egg, fried on both sides:** | bitten mixed stirred (to mix a liquid by spoon in a circular pattern)  + fried  ***Pancake batter is usually mixed/ stirred and then fried.*** |
| cake mixture | bitten stirred + fried  ***Cake mixture is usually bitten / stirred and then fried.*** |
| carrots (**a long pointed orange root eaten as a vegetable)** | chopped/grated ( **to rub food against a grater in order to cut it into a lot of smallpieces)** / peeled / sliced / washed + boiled / eaten raw / served / steamed  ***Carrots are usually chopped grated / peeled / sliced / washed and then boiled / eaten raw / served / steamed.*** |
| cheese | grated / sliced + eaten raw / served  ***Cheese is usually grated, sliced and then eaten raw / served.*** |
| cream | beaten / whipped (a sweet food made from cream or beaten egg mixed together with fruit + served  ***Cream is usually beaten / whipped and then served.*** |
| dough (**flour mixed with water and often yeast, fat, or sugar, so that it is ready for baking)** | kneaded (to press something, especially a mixture for making bread, firmly and repeatedly with the hands and fingers) / mixed + baked  ***Dough is usually kneaded / mixed, and then baked.*** |
| a lemon | grated, sliced, squeezed (to press something firmly, especially from all sides in order to change its shape, reduce its size or remove liquid from it) + baked served  ***A lemon is usually grated / sliced / squeezed and then baked / served.*** |
| a lettuce (**a plant with large, green leaves, eaten uncooked in salads)** | tossed / washed + eaten raw + served  ***A lettuce is usually tossed / washed and then eaten raw / served.*** |
| liver | chopped, sliced + baked fried grilled / boiled/ roasted served stewed (cooked slowly in a small amount of liquid)  ***Liver is usually chopped, sliced and then baked / fried / grilled / boiled / roasted / served / stewed.*** |
| potatoes | chopped / grated / peeled / sliced + baked boiled fried roasted steamed  ***Potatoes are usually chopped / grated / peeled /sliced and then baked / boiled / fried / roasted / steamed.*** |
| rice | washed + boiled fried steamed  ***Rice is usually washed and then boiled / fried / steamed.*** |
| **walnuts** (a nut with a slightly bitter taste and a series of folds in it and a hard-shell) | chopped / grated / ground + baked eaten raw  ***Walnuts are chopped / grated / ground and then baked / eaten raw.*** |

Takeaway food: Food which is ordered and made in a restaurant and is then taken away to be eaten at home or elsewhere

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**4.3 Simple (Simple Past) + Progressive aspect (Past Continuous)**

**Past Simple**

Used to talk about a finished action in the past, often with time expressions like *yesterday, last week, a year ago etc.*

**Past Continuous**

Used to express an action in progress at a particular time in the past

Ten people **were sitting** around the table. It **was raining** outside. Suddenly, the door **opened** and a woman **entered** the room. She **was wearing** a black dress. Everyone **stared** at, her but she **didn't say** anything. She slowly **went** to the table and **put** an envelope on it. They **were** just **staring** at her as she **left** the room.

**Note the difference between these two sentences from the story:**

* Everyone **stared** at her.
* They **were** just **staring** at her.

The **past simple** in the first sentence expresses a momentary, completed action, whereas the **past continuous** in the second sentence expresses an action in progress. Here is another example for the same contrast:

I **went** home at 7. (completed action)  
At 7, I **was going** home. (action in progress)

**Present Simple and Present Continuous**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Present Simple** | **Present Continuous** |
| We use the present simple tense when we want to talk about fixed habits or routines – things that don’t change. | We use the present continuous to talk about actions which are happening at the present moment, but will soon finish. |
| I play tennis.  ‘I play tennis’ tells us that playing tennis is something the speaker always does. It is part of a routine or habit. We can call this a permanent situation. | I am playing tennis.  ‘I am playing tennis’ tells us that the speaker is playing tennis right now. Soon the game will be over. We call this a temporary situation. |
| I play tennis  You play tennis  We play tennis  They play tennis  He/she/ it plays tennis. | I am playing tennis  You are playing tennis  We are playing tennis  They are playing tennis.  He/she/it is playing tennis |
|  |  |
| **Always:**  ‘I always read before I go to bed.’  **Often:** ‘Her sister often comes shopping with us.’  **Frequently:** ‘Michael frequently visits his family.’  **Sometimes:** You sometimes go to the gym, don’t you?  **Occasionally:** It occasionally rains in summer.  **Seldom:** They seldom ask for help.  **Rarely:**‘ He rarely goes out without his backpack.’  **Hardly ever:** I hardly ever eat pizza.’  **Never:**  Japanese people never wear shoes inside. | **Time Expressions we use with the Present Continuous**  With the present continuous we use these time expressions:  (Notice that the time expression can come at the start or at the end of the sentence.)  **At the moment:** I’m watching TV, at the moment.’  **These days:**  Paul’s living in Cardiff, these days.  **Now:**  What are you doing, now?  **Nowadays:**  I think you are smoking too much, nowadays.’ |

**Present Perfect Vs Present Perfect Progressive**

We use the present perfect simple with action verbs to emphasize the completion of an event in the recent past. We use the present perfect continuous to talk about ongoing events or activities which started at a time in the past and are still continuing up until now.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Present Perfect** | **Present Perfect Progressive** |
| *have/has + Past Participle* | *Have / has + been + -ing* |
| shows a finished past action  does not show when it occurred | Show a continuing action that started in the past, continues to the present, and will continue into the future. |
| No time marker is needed, but for emphasis it is possible to use:  already, ever, yet, never, still | for, since, all |
| * I have read The Tempest.   (I have finished reading it.) | I have been reading The Tempest all night. (I will continue to read it.) |
| * She has already written her report.   (She has finished writing it.) | * She has been writing her report for two hours. * (She will continue to write it. |

**Simple Future Vs Future Progressive**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Simple Future** | **Future Progressive** |
| 1. will + base verb  2. be going to + base verb  3. be + -ing verb | will + be + -ing verb (Use a simple present verb in the dependent clause.) |
| To show an action that will occur in the future. | To show that a long future action will get interrupted by a short future action |
| **Normally we use following words with simple future:**   * tomorrow * the day after tomorrow * next (next week, next month, next year, etc.) * from now (two days from now, three weeks from now, etc.) | when |
| * I will come with you to the movies tonight. * My friend is going to visit his family in America next year. | * She will be studying when her friend comes over tonight. * The children will be taking a bath when you get home. * When the storm hits, they will already be sleeping. * When my friend arrives, I will still be working on this paper |

**C. Find the errors in these sentences and correct them. One sentence has NO errors. (Very Important)**

1. We are usually having lunch on Sundays.

We usually have lunch on Sundays.

1. We can take a picnic but what will we be doing if it starts to rain?

We can take a picnic but what will we do if it starts to rain?

1. She stayed at home because she was having a cold.

She stayed at home because she had a cold.

1. While I drove along I suddenly remembered that I had left the freezer door open.

While I was driving along I suddently remembered that I had left the freezer door open.

1. The last time I saw him he was getting on a bus, eating an ice cream.

(No errors)

1. Breakfast is normally being served in the dining room but today it is served in the coffee shop.

Breakfast is normally served in the dining room, but today it is being served in the coffee shop.

1. Who is this recipe book that’s lying on the table belonging to?

Who does this recipe book that’s lying on the table belong to?

1. She was disliking vegetarian food at first but now she’s enjoying it whenever she has been having it.

She disliked vegetarian food at first but now she’s enjoys it whenever she has it.