



ADVERBS

A An adverb adds information to the meaning of a verb. Some adverbs of manner (how) add -ly to the adjective. We form many adverbs from an **adjective + ly**. For example **politely, quickly, safely**. But there are some special spelling rules.

1	We do not leave out e , e.g. nice → nicely Exceptions are true → truly, whole → wholly.
2	Y → ily after a consonant, e.g. easy → easily, lucky → luckily Also angrily, happily, heavily, etc.
3	le → ly, e.g. possible → possibly Also comfortably, probably, reasonably, sensibly, terribly, etc
4	lc → ically, e.g. dramatic → dramatically Also automatically, scientifically, etc. (Exception : publicly)

B Adverbs and adjectives with the same form






back	hard*	little	right*	deep*	high*	wrong*	enough	kindly	well	far	long
short*	direct*	ill	low	still	early	straight	just*	near*	late*	pretty*	much / more / most*

Used as adverbs	Used as adjectives:	
❖ Come back soon.	▪ the back door	
❖ You can dial Rome direct .	▪ the most direct route.	
❖ The train went fast .	▪ a fast train	
❖ They worked hard . (energetically)	❖ The work is hard .	a fast train
❖ an ill -made road	▪ You look ill / well .	
❖ Turn right here.	▪ the right answer	
❖ She went straight home.	▪ a straight line	
❖ He led us wrong .	❖ This is the wrong way.	
		You look ill .

NOTE Starred words above also have **ly** forms. Note the meanings.

C deeply is used chiefly of feelings:	❖ He was deeply offended.
directly can be used of time or connection:	❖ He'll be here directly , (very soon) ❖ The new regulations will affect us directly / indirectly .
highly is used only in an abstract sense:	❖ He was a highly paid official. ❖ They spoke very highly of him.
justly corresponds to the adjective just (fair, right, lawful), but just can also be an adverb of degree .	❖ Deal justly with the prisoners. ❖ The food was just wonderful.

<p>lately = recently:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Have you seen him lately? ❖ I haven't been feeling so well lately. 	
<p>mostly = chiefly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The band are mostly teenagers. ❖ We're mostly out on Fridays. 	
<p>nearly = almost:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ I'm nearly ready. ❖ She's nearly as tall as her father now. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The exam was pretty difficult..
<p>prettily corresponds to the adjective pretty (attractive):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Her little girls are always prettily dressed. 	
<p>NOTE pretty (rather informal) can also be an adverb of degree meaning</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. very: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The exam was pretty difficult. ❖ The performance was pretty impressive. 2. to some extent, fairly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ I'm pretty sure I'll be going. ❖ It's pretty hard to explain. 		
<p>rightly can be used with a past participle to mean justly or correctly:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ He was rightly / justly punished. ❖ I was rightly / correctly informed. 	
<p>But in each case the second adverb would be more usual.</p>		
<p>shortly = soon, briefly or curtly.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ We will shortly be arriving in King's Cross Station. 	
<p>wrongly can be used with a past participle:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ You were wrongly (incorrectly) informed. 	
<p>But He acted wrongly could mean that his action was either incorrect or morally wrong.</p>		
<p>D long and near (adverbs) have a restricted use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ I waited for ages. 	
<p>1 long</p>		
<p>longer, longest can be used without restriction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ It took longer than I expected. 		
<p>But long is used mainly in the negative or interrogative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ How long will it take to get there? ~ It won't take long. 		
<p>In the affirmative too/so + long or long + enough is possible. Alternatively a long time can be used:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ I would take too long. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ It would take a long time. 		
<p>In conversation (for) a long time is often replaced by (for) ages:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ I waited for ages. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ It took us ages to get there. 		
<p>2 near</p>		
<p>nearer, nearest can be used without restriction:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Don't come any nearer. 		

<p>But near in the positive form is usually qualified by very/quite/so/too or enough:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ They live quite near. ❖ Don't come too near. ❖ You're near enough. 	
<p>The preposition near with noun, pronoun or adverb is more generally useful</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Don't go near the edge. ❖ The ship sank near here. 	 <p>❖ Don't come any nearer.</p>
<p>E far and much also have a restricted use.</p>		
<p>far, farther/farthest and further/furthest</p>		
<p>1 further, furthest</p>		
<p>These, like farther / farthest, can be used as adverbs of place/distance:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ It isn't safe to go any further / farther in this fog. 	
<p>But they can also be used in an abstract sense:</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Mr A said that these toy pistols should not be on sale. ❖ Mr B went further and said that no toy pistols should be sold. ❖ Mr C went furthest of all and said that no guns of any kind should be sold. 		
<p>2 far: restrictions on use</p>		
<p>far in the comparative and superlative can be used quite freely:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ He travelled further than we expected. 	
<p>far in the positive form is used chiefly in the negative and interrogative:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ How far can you see? ~ I can't see far. 	
<p>In the affirmative a long way is more usual than far, and a long way away is more usual than far away:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ They sailed a long way. ❖ He lives a long way away. 	
<p>But very far away is possible, and so is so/quite/ too + far and far + enough:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ They walked so far that... ❖ They walked too far. ❖ We've gone far enough. 	
<p>far can be used with an abstract meaning;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The new law doesn't go far enough. ❖ You've gone too far! (You've been too insulting/ overbearing/ insolent etc.) 	

far, adverb of degree, is used with comparatives or with **too / so** + positive forms:

- ❖ She swims **far better** than I do.
- ❖ He drinks **far too much**.



NOTE **Hard** and **hardly** are often confused.
Hardly means 'almost not'. **Hard** is an adverb form meaning 'using a lot of energy'.

- ❖ I can **hardly** hear you. (=almost not)

- ❖ You've worked **hard**. (= with a lot of effort)



gradable and ungradable adjectives and intensifiers

A Adjectives that describe **age, size, beauty** etc can be measured or graded, and are called gradable. We can use intensifiers **very, extremely** with them.

- ❖ This tree is **extremely o/d**.
- ❖ It's a **very beautiful** painting.
- ❖ This problem is **extremely difficult**.
- ❖ I feel **very unhappy**.



B **Ungradable** or **Non-gradable** adjectives are those adjectives with meanings which cannot be modified by adverbs.:

- the **western** side of the mountain
- **electronic** devices
- a **nuclear** reactor
- ❖ This painting is **superb**.
- ❖ This problem is **impossible**.

We cannot say


~~This painting is **very superb**.~~



degree adverbs: quite


<p>A With gradable adjectives (or adjective + noun) or adverbs, quite has a negative meaning: 'not very much' or 'less than expected'.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The film was quite entertaining, but I didn't really enjoy it. ❖ It's quite a long way to walk. ❖ They did the work quite slowly. 	
<p>B With ungradable adjectives and adjectives with an 'extreme' meaning, quite means completely. It can be used in the same way before a verb or adverb.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ I'm sorry, but you are quite wrong. (ungradable) ❖ This puzzle is quite impossible! (extreme meaning) ❖ I quite agree. (= I agree completely) ❖ I can't quite make up my mind. (not completely) 		
<p>C Quite can be used with + a / an + noun to show that something is unusual or interesting.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ That's quite a car!
<p>D Quite can be used with a superlative to mean 'very much'.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ That's quite the longest book I've ever read. 	

degree adverbs: rather


<p>A With gradable adjectives (or adjective + noun) rather has a stronger meaning than quite. It can be used in the same way before a verb or adverb.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ I think she's rather clever. ❖ This is rather a steep mountain. ❖ We all worked rather hard. ❖ I rather like your friend Anna. 	
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B	Rather is common with negative adjectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ I thought the film was rather uninteresting. ❖ That was a rather stupid thing to do.
C	Rather is also often used with comparatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ This painting is rather more interesting.

degree adverbs: fairly


A	With gradable adjectives (or adjective + noun) fairly usually has a similar meaning to ' quite '. Fairly is less strong than quite. It can be used the same way before an adverb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ He's a fairly good pianist, I suppose. (= not very good) ❖ They worked fairly hard, but that wasn't really good enough. ❖ The report was fairly incomprehensible. 	
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intensifiers

B	These are words that modify gradable adjectives and adverbs; they are used to make adjectives or adverbs stronger. very, extremely, really, terribly, particularly, awfully etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ This is really tasty! ❖ I thought the play was terribly boring. 	
especially, particularly, real/y are often used with verbs			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ I really admire you. ❖ I particularly like this one. 			

C	Some intensifiers tend to collocate with certain adjectives: absolutely ridiculous, completely useless, entirely unexpected, greatly admired, perfectly obvious etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The announcement was not entirely unexpected. 	
There are no rules to explain which intensifiers go with which adjectives.			
D	Some ungradable adjectives, usually with a negative meaning, can be modified by utterly, completely, totally .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The food was completely awful! ❖ The house was totally destroyed in the explosion. ❖ We're so utterly different from each other. 	
These adverbs can also be used with verbs.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ I completely agree with you. ❖ We utterly condemn what has happened. 			

comment and viewpoint adverbs

A	Comment adverbs show the attitude of the speaker, eg clearly, probably, luckily, surprisingly, foolishly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Sue naturally didn't agree. ❖ We obviously liked it. ❖ Alan kindly gave us a lift. ❖ Stupidly, I had left my wallet at home. 	
<p>Other sentence adverbs indicate how we should understand what follows, eg generally, apparently, supposedly.</p>			
B	Viewpoint adverbs tell us from what point of view the speaker is talking, eg politically, financially, technically.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Environmentally, this was a disaster. (= From an environmental point of view ...) ❖ Logically, this can't be correct. 	
<p>Sometimes phrases are used for emphasis, eg political/y speaking, from a political point of view,, as far as politics is concerned</p>			

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