

## Adverbs of Degree

Adverb	Example
<b>A (little) bit</b> (informal)	<i>He arrived <b>a little bit</b> late. I'm <b>a bit</b> worried about Tom.</i>
<b>A little</b> (only with adjectives)	<i>I feel <b>a little</b> tired. He looked <b>a little</b> confused.</i>
<b>A lot</b> (only with adverbs)	<i>I go out with my friends <b>a lot</b>. I eat pasta quite <b>a lot</b>.</i>
<b>Absolutely</b>	<i>I <b>absolutely</b> love chocolate cake. I'm not <b>absolutely</b> sure what time she left.</i>
<b>Almost</b>	<i>We have <b>almost</b> arrived at the station. I can <b>almost</b> imagine what it is like there.</i>
<b>Awfully</b>	<i>There is an <b>awfully</b> big cut on his leg. The nurse was <b>awfully</b> kind to me.</i>
The <b>adjectives</b> “awful” and “terrible” describe things that are negative; but the adverbs <i>terribly</i> and <i>awfully</i> , can be used positively or negatively! e.g. “The film was <i>awfully funny</i> / <i>awfully sad</i> ”.	
<b>Completely</b>	<i>I <b>completely</b> understand why you are worried. That is a <b>completely</b> different situation.</i>
<b>Deeply</b>	<i>I am <b>deeply</b> grateful to everyone who helped me at that time. He became <b>deeply</b> involved in politics.</i>
<b>Enough</b>	<i>Is that jacket big <b>enough</b>? Did she run quickly <b>enough</b> to win the race? Do you think you worked hard <b>enough</b> to pass the exam?</i>
<b>Enormously</b>	<i>The film was <b>enormously</b> successful. I <b>enormously</b> appreciate your help with that.</i>
<b>Entirely</b>	<i>That is an <b>entirely</b> different situation. I'm not <b>entirely</b> sure what you mean!</i>
<b>Extremely</b>	<i>That is an <b>extremely</b> difficult question. She did <b>extremely</b> well in the exam.</i>
<b>Fairly</b>	<i>I'm <b>fairly</b> sure I saw Sarah next to the Post Office. I play the piano <b>fairly</b> well.</i>
<b>Greatly</b>	<i>I <b>greatly</b> appreciate your help. She is <b>greatly</b> admired for her work on nuclear physics.</i>
<b>Highly</b>	<i>He is a <b>highly</b> skilled engineer. It is <b>highly</b> likely that Sue will get the job.</i>
<b>Incredibly</b>	<i>That exam was <b>incredibly</b> difficult. He walks <b>incredibly</b> slowly!</i>
<b>Loads/Lots</b> (informal)	<i>I see my friends <b>loads</b> at the weekend. I missed you <b>lots</b> when you went away!</i>
<b>Most</b> (very formal)	<i>You are <b>most</b> kind. That was <b>most</b> generous of him.</i>
Note: this is not the same meaning of ‘most’ as with the superlative – the most beautiful, etc. Here ‘most’ means ‘very’ ... so use ‘very’ unless you want to be formal.	

<b>Not at all</b>	<i>I'm <b>not at all</b> happy about that!</i> <i>It is <b>not at all</b> clear how to answer the question.</i>
<b>Particularly</b>	<i>That was a <b>particularly</b> good film.</i> <i>I thought she sang <b>particularly</b> well.</i>
<b>Perfectly</b>	<i>I can read the road sign <b>perfectly</b>.</i> <i>I understand <b>perfectly</b> well why he left his job.</i>
<b>Practically</b>	<i>I won't score 100% in the Maths exam. That is <b>practically</b> impossible!</i> <i>She <b>practically</b> lives at our house.</i>
<b>Pretty</b>	<i>I'm <b>pretty</b> sure she will pass the exam.</i> <i>I thought it was a <b>pretty</b> good film.</i>
<b>Quite</b>	<i>It was <b>quite</b> difficult to choose the right present for Sonia.</i> <i>Tim is <b>quite</b> tall.</i>
Note: ' <b>quite</b> ' has two different meanings. It has a similar meaning to 'rather', e.g: " <i>I am <b>quite</b> shy</i> ". But it also has a similar meaning to 'totally' when used with adjectives that can't have a degree of meaning, e.g: " <i>I am <b>quite</b> <u>certain</u> I told him to meet me at 6pm</i> ".	
<b>Rather</b>	<i>I thought her first novel was <b>rather</b> good.</i> <i>He seemed <b>rather</b> quiet when I saw him last week.</i>
<b>Remarkably</b>	<i>He played <b>remarkably</b> well in the final.</i> <i>There were <b>remarkably</b> few applications for the job.</i>
<b>Slightly</b>	<i>I will earn <b>slightly</b> more money in my new job.</i> <i>How do you feel about the interview? I am <b>slightly</b> nervous actually!</i>
<b>Somewhat</b>	<i>I was <b>somewhat</b> surprised that Joe got the promotion.</i> <i>It was <b>somewhat</b> late when the show started.</i>
<b>Strongly</b>	<i>I <b>strongly</b> believe animals should not be exploited.</i> <i>He was <b>strongly</b> opposed to the new law on driving speeds.</i>
<b>Terribly</b>	<i>I did <b>terribly</b> in the speaking exam.</i> <i>What happened to Chris was <b>terribly</b> sad.</i>
<b>Thoroughly</b>	<i>I <b>thoroughly</b> enjoyed the film.</i> <i>I <b>thoroughly</b> approve of loans for students.</i>
<b>Too</b>	<i>It was <b>too</b> hot for me in that room!</i> <i>That box is <b>too</b> high up to reach.</i>
Note: <i>Too</i> has a <b>negative meaning</b> . It means 'more than is good'. So you can ' <i>eat too much</i> ', but you probably wouldn't ' <i>love John too much</i> '. It is more likely that you would ' <i>love John very much</i> '!	
<b>Totally</b>	<i>I feel too tired to come out tonight. That's OK, I <b>totally</b> understand.</i> <i>Paul's behaviour was <b>totally</b> unreasonable.</i>
<b>Utterly</b>	<i>I was <b>utterly</b> devastated when Grandma died.</i> <i>That party was <b>utterly</b> fantastic!</i>
<b>Very</b> (use only with adjectives and adverbs)	<i>Martina is <b>very</b> tall.</i> <i>They walked <b>very</b> quickly.</i>
Note: with <b>verbs</b> , instead of 'very', use the adverbial phrase ' <i>very much</i> ' or the adverb of degree ' <i>really</i> '. e.g.: " <i>I <b>really</b> enjoyed it</i> " [normal English] or " <i>I <b>very much</b> enjoyed it</i> " [more formal].	
<b>Virtually</b>	<i>You can't marathon every day for a week! That is <b>virtually</b> impossible!</i> <i>Apart from the size of their feet, Tim and Tom are <b>virtually</b> identical.</i>