

Adjectives ending in -ing and -ed (boring/bored etc.)

A There are many adjectives ending in -ing and -ed, for example: boring and bored. Study this example situation:



Jane has been doing the same job for a very long time. Every day she does exactly the same thing again and again. She doesn't enjoy her job any more and would like to do something different.

Jane's job is boring.
Jane is bored (with her job).

Somebody is **bored** if something (or somebody else) is **boring**. Or, if something is **boring**, it makes you **bored**. So:

- Jane is **bored** because her job is **boring**.
- Jane's job is **boring**, so Jane is **bored**. (*not* Jane is boring)

If a person is **boring**, this means that they make other people **bored**:

- George always talks about the same things. He's really **boring**.

B Compare adjectives ending in -ing and -ed:

- My job is { boring, interesting, tiring, satisfying, depressing, etc.

In these examples, the -ing adjective tells you about the job.

- I'm **bored** with my job.
- I'm not **interested** in my job any more.
- I get very **tired** doing my job.
- I'm not **satisfied** with my job.
- My job makes me **depressed**, etc.

In these examples, the -ed adjective tells you how somebody feels (about the job).

Compare these examples:

interesting

- Julia thinks politics is interesting.
- Did you meet anyone interesting at the party?

surprising

- It was surprising that he passed the exam.

disappointing

- The film was disappointing. We expected it to be much better.

shocking

- The news was shocking.

interested

- Julia is **interested** in politics. (*not* interesting in politics)
- Are you **interested** in buying a car? I'm trying to sell mine.

surprised

- Everybody was **surprised** that he passed the exam.

disappointed

- We were **disappointed** with the film. We expected it to be much better.

shocked

- I was **shocked** when I heard the news.

Exercises

98.1 Complete the sentences for each situation. Use the word in brackets + -ing or -ed.

- 1 The film wasn't as good as we had expected. (disappoint...)
a The film was disappointing.
b We were disappointed with the film.
- 2 Donna teaches young children. It's a very hard job, but she enjoys it. (exhaust...)
a She enjoys her job, but it's often
b At the end of a day's work, she is often
- 3 It's been raining all day. I hate this weather. (depress...)
a This weather is
b This weather makes me
c It's silly to get because of the weather.
- 4 Clare is going to Mexico next month. She has never been there before. (excite...)
a It will be an experience for her.
b Going to new places is always
c She is really about going to Mexico.

98.2 Choose the correct word.

- 1 I was disappointing / disappointed with the film. I had expected it to be better. (disappointed is correct)
- 2 Are you interesting / interested in football?
- 3 The football match was very exciting / excited. I enjoyed it.
- 4 It's sometimes embarrassing / embarrassed when you have to ask people for money.
- 5 Do you easily get embarrassing / embarrassed?
- 6 I had never expected to get the job. I was really amazing / amazed when I was offered it.
- 7 She has really learnt very fast. She has made astonishing / astonished progress.
- 8 I didn't find the situation funny. I was not amusing / amused.
- 9 It was a really terrifying / terrified experience. Afterwards everybody was very shocking / shocked.
- 10 Why do you always look so boring / bored? Is your life really so boring / bored?
- 11 He's one of the most boring / bored people I've ever met. He never stops talking and he never says anything interesting / interested.

98.3 Complete each sentence using a word from the box.

amusing/amused	annoying/annoyed	boring/bored
confusing/confused	disgusting/disgusted	exciting/excited
exhausting/exhausted	interesting/interested	surprising/surprised

- 1 He works very hard. It's not surprising that he's always tired.
- 2 I've got nothing to do. I'm
- 3 The teacher's explanation was Most of the students didn't understand it.
- 4 The kitchen hadn't been cleaned for ages. It was really
- 5 I seldom visit art galleries. I'm not particularly in art.
- 6 There's no need to get just because I'm a few minutes late.
- 7 The lecture was I fell asleep.
- 8 I've been working very hard all day and now I'm
- 9 I'm starting a new job next week. I'm very about it.
- 10 Steve is very good at telling funny stories. He can be very
- 11 Liz is a very person. She knows a lot, she's travelled a lot and she's done lots of different things.

Adjectives: a nice new house, you look tired

A Sometimes we use two or more adjectives together:

- My brother lives in a **nice** new house.
- In the kitchen there was a **beautiful large round wooden** table.

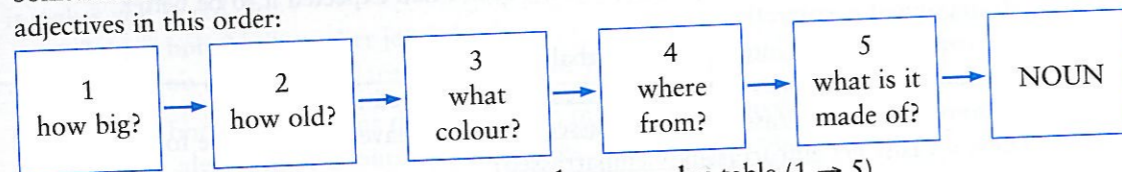
Adjectives like **new/large/round/wooden** are *fact* adjectives. They give us factual information about age, size, colour etc.

Adjectives like **nice/beautiful** are *opinion* adjectives. They tell us what somebody thinks of something or somebody.

Opinion adjectives usually go before fact adjectives.

	<i>opinion</i>	<i>fact</i>	
a	nice	long	summer holiday
an	interesting	young	man
	delicious	hot	vegetable soup
a	beautiful	large round wooden	table

B Sometimes we use two or more fact adjectives together. Usually (but not always) we put fact adjectives in this order:



- a tall young man (1 → 2)
- big blue eyes (1 → 3)
- a small black plastic bag (1 → 3 → 5)
- a large wooden table (1 → 5)
- an old Russian song (2 → 4)
- an old white cotton shirt (2 → 3 → 5)

Adjectives of size and length (**big/small/tall/short/long** etc.) usually go before adjectives of shape and width (**round/fat/thin/slim/wide** etc.):

- a large round table
- a tall thin girl
- a long narrow street

When there are two or more colour adjectives, we use **and**:

- a black and white dress
- a red, white and green flag

This does not usually happen with other adjectives before a noun:

- a long black dress (*not* a long and black dress)

C We use adjectives after **be/get/become/seem**:

- Be careful!
- I'm tired and I'm getting hungry.
- As the film went on, it became more and more boring.
- Your friend seems very nice.

We also use adjectives to say how somebody/something looks, feels, sounds, tastes or smells:

- You look tired. / I feel tired. / She sounds tired.
- The dinner smells good.
- This tea tastes a bit strange.

But to say *how* somebody does something you must use an *adverb* (see Units 100–101):

- Drive carefully! (*not* Drive careful)
- Susan plays the piano very well. (*not* plays ... very good)

D

We say 'the first two days / the next few weeks / the last ten minutes' etc.:

- I didn't enjoy the first two days of the course. (*not* the two first days)
- They'll be away for the next few weeks. (*not* the few next weeks)

Adverbs → Units 100–101 Comparison (cheaper etc.) → Units 105–107
 Superlatives (cheapest etc.) → Unit 108

99.1 Put the adjectives in brackets in the correct position.

- a beautiful table (wooden / round) a beautiful round wooden table
- an unusual ring (gold) _____
- an old house (beautiful) _____
- black gloves (leather) _____
- an American film (old) _____
- a long face (thin) _____
- big clouds (black) _____
- a sunny day (lovely) _____
- an ugly dress (yellow) _____
- a wide avenue (long) _____
- a red car (old / little) _____
- a new sweater (green / nice) _____
- a metal box (black / small) _____
- a big cat (fat / black) _____
- a little village (old / lovely) _____
- long hair (black / beautiful) _____
- an old painting (interesting / French) _____
- an enormous umbrella (red / yellow) _____

99.2 Complete each sentence with a verb (in the correct form) and an adjective from the boxes.

feel	look	seem	awful	fine	interesting
smell	sound	taste	nice	upset	wet

- Helen seemed upset this morning. Do you know what was wrong?
- I can't eat this. I've just tried it and it _____.
- I wasn't very well yesterday, but I _____ today.
- What beautiful flowers! They _____ too.
- You _____ . Have you been out in the rain?
- Jim was telling me about his new job. It _____ - much better than his old job.

99.3 Put in the correct word.

- This tea tastes a bit strange. (strange / strangely)
- I always feel _____ when the sun is shining. (happy / happily)
- The children were playing _____ in the garden. (happy / happily)
- The man became _____ when the manager of the restaurant asked him to leave. (violent / violently)
- You look _____ ! Are you all right? (terrible / terribly)
- There's no point in doing a job if you don't do it _____ . (proper / properly)
- The soup tastes _____ . (good / well)
- Hurry up! You're always so _____ . (slow / slowly)

99.4 Write the following in another way using the first ... / the next ... / the last ...

- the first day and the second day of the course the first two days of the course
- next week and the week after the next two weeks
- yesterday and the day before yesterday _____
- the first week and the second week of May _____
- tomorrow and a few days after that _____
- questions 1, 2 and 3 in the exam _____
- next year and the year after _____
- the last day of our holiday and the two days before that _____

→ Additional exercise 31 (page 320)

Adjectives and adverbs 1 (quick/quickly)

A

Look at these examples:

- Our holiday was too short – the time passed very **quickly**.
- Two people were **seriously** injured in the accident.

Quickly and seriously are *adverbs*. Many adverbs are formed from an adjective + -ly:

adjective: quick serious careful quiet heavy bad
adverb: quickly seriously carefully quietly heavily badly

For spelling, see Appendix 6.

Not all words ending in -ly are adverbs. Some *adjectives* end in -ly too, for example:

friendly lively elderly lonely silly lovely

B

Adjective or adverb?

Adjectives (**quick/careful** etc.) tell us about a *noun* (somebody or something). We use adjectives before nouns:

- Sam is a **careful** driver. (*not* a carefully driver)
- We didn't go out because of the **heavy** rain.

Adverbs (**quickly/carefully** etc.) tell us about a *verb* (*how* somebody does something or *how* something happens):

- Sam **drove carefully** along the narrow road. (*not* drove careful)
- We didn't go out because it was **raining heavily**. (*not* raining heavy)

Compare:

She speaks **perfect** English.
adjective + noun

She speaks English **perfectly**.
verb + noun + adverb

We also use adjectives after some verbs, especially *be*, and also *look/feel/sound* etc.

Compare:

- Please **be** quiet.
- I was disappointed that my exam results were so **bad**.
- Why do you always **look** so serious?
- I **feel** happy.
- Please **speak** quietly.
- I was unhappy that I **did** so badly in the exam. (*not* did so bad)
- Why do you never **take** me seriously?
- The children were **playing** happily.

C

We also use adverbs before *adjectives* and *other adverbs*. For example:

reasonably cheap (*adverb + adjective*)
terribly sorry (*adverb + adjective*)
incredibly quickly (*adverb + adverb*)

- It's a **reasonably cheap** restaurant and the food is **extremely** good.
- I'm **terribly** sorry. I didn't mean to push you. (*not* terrible sorry)
- Maria learns languages **incredibly** quickly.
- The examination was **surprisingly** easy.

You can also use an adverb before a *past participle* (*injured/organised/written* etc.):

- Two people were **seriously** injured in the accident. (*not* serious injured)
- The meeting was very **badly** organised.

Exercises

100.1 Complete each sentence with an adverb. The first letters of the adverb are given.

- 1 We didn't go out because it was raining he avily .
- 2 Our team lost the game because we played very ba.....
- 3 I had little difficulty finding a place to live. I found a flat quite ea.....
- 4 We had to wait for a long time, but we didn't complain. We waited pat.....
- 5 Nobody knew Steve was coming to see us. He arrived unex.....
- 6 Mike keeps fit by playing tennis reg.....
- 7 I don't speak French very well, but I can understand per..... if people speak sl..... and cl.....

100.2 Put in the correct word.

- 1 Two people were seriously injured in the accident. (serious / seriously)
- 2 The driver of the car had serious injuries. (serious / seriously)
- 3 I think you behaved very (selfish / selfishly)
- 4 Rose is upset about losing her job. (terrible / terribly)
- 5 There was a change in the weather. (sudden / suddenly)
- 6 Everybody at the party was dressed. (colourful / colourfully)
- 7 Linda likes wearing clothes. (colourful / colourfully)
- 8 Liz fell and hurt herself quite (bad / badly)
- 9 Joe says he didn't do well at school because he was taught. (bad / badly)
- 10 Don't go up that ladder. It doesn't look (safe / safely)

100.3 Complete each sentence using a word from the box. Sometimes you need the adjective (careful etc.) and sometimes the adverb (carefully etc.).

careful(ly)	complete(ly)	continuous(ly)	financial(ly)	fluent(ly)
happy/happily	nervous(ly)	perfect(ly)	quick(ly)	special(ly)

- 1 Our holiday was too short. The time passed very quickly .
- 2 Steve doesn't take risks when he's driving. He's always
- 3 Sue works She never seems to stop.
- 4 Rachel and Patrick are very married.
- 5 Maria's English is very although she makes quite a lot of mistakes.
- 6 I cooked this meal for you, so I hope you like it.
- 7 Everything was very quiet. There was silence.
- 8 I tried on the shoes and they fitted me
- 9 Do you usually feel before examinations?
- 10 I'd like to buy a car, but it's impossible for me at the moment.

100.4 Choose two words (one from each box) to complete each sentence.

absolutely	badly	completely	changed	cheap	damaged
reasonably	seriously	slightly	enormous	ill	long
unnecessarily	unusually		planned	quiet	

- 1 I thought the restaurant would be expensive, but it was reasonably cheap .
- 2 Steve's mother is in hospital.
- 3 What a big house! It's
- 4 It wasn't a serious accident. The car was only
- 5 The children are normally very lively, but they're today.
- 6 When I returned home after 20 years, everything had
- 7 The film was It could have been much shorter.
- 8 A lot went wrong during our holiday because it was

Adjectives and adverbs 2 (well/fast/late, hard/hardly)

A

Good/well

Good is an *adjective*. The *adverb* is well:

- Your English is **good**. *but* You **speak** English **well**.
- Susan is a **good** pianist. *but* Susan **plays** the piano **well**.

We use **well** (not good) with *past participles* (dressed/known etc.):
well-dressed well-known well-educated well-paid

- Gary's father is a **well-known** writer.

But **well** is also an adjective with the meaning 'in good health':

- 'How are you today?' 'I'm very **well**, thanks.'

B

Fast/hard/late

These words are both adjectives and adverbs:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <i>adjective</i> | <i>adverb</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Darren is a very fast runner. | Darren can run very fast . |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kate is a hard worker. | Kate works hard . (<i>not works hardly</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I was late . | I got up late this morning. |

Lately = recently:

- Have you seen Tom **lately**?

C

Hardly

Hardly = very little, almost not. Study these examples:

- Sarah wasn't very friendly at the party. She **hardly** spoke to me. (= she spoke to me very little, almost not at all)
- We've only met once or twice. We **hardly** know each other.

Hard and **hardly** are different. Compare:

- He tried **hard** to find a job, but he had no luck. (= he tried a lot, with a lot of effort)
- I'm not surprised he didn't find a job. He **hardly** tried to find one. (= he tried very little)

You can use **hardly** + **any/anybody/anyone/anything/anywhere**:

- A: How much money have we got?
B: **Hardly any**. (= very little, almost none)
- These two cameras are very similar. There's **hardly any** difference between them.
- The exam results were very bad. **Hardly anybody** in our class passed. (= very few students passed)

There's hardly anything in the fridge.



Note that you can say:

- She said **hardly anything**. *or* She **hardly** said **anything**.
- We've got **hardly any** money. *or* We've **hardly** got **any** money.

I **can hardly** do something = it's very difficult for me, almost impossible:

- Your writing is terrible. I **can hardly** read it. (= it is almost impossible to read it)
- My leg was hurting me. I **could hardly** walk.

Hardly ever = almost never:

- I'm nearly always at home in the evenings. I **hardly ever** go out.

Hardly also means 'certainly not'. For example:

- It's **hardly surprising** that you're tired. You haven't slept for three days. (= it's certainly not surprising)
- The situation is serious, but it's **hardly a crisis**. (= it's certainly not a crisis)

Exercises

101.1 Put in good or well.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 I play tennis but I'm not very <u>good</u> . | 7 Lucy speaks German very |
| 2 Your exam results were very | 8 Lucy's German is very |
| 3 You did in your exams. | 9 Our new business isn't doing very at the moment. |
| 4 The weather was while we were on holiday. | 10 I like your hat. It looks on you. |
| 5 I didn't sleep last night. | 11 I've met her a few times, but I don't know her |
| 6 How are you? Are you ? | |

101.2 Complete these sentences using well + the following words:

~~behaved~~ dressed informed kept known paid written

- 1 The children were very good. They were well-behaved.
- 2 I'm surprised you haven't heard of her. She is quite
- 3 Our neighbours' garden is neat and tidy. It is very
- 4 I enjoyed the book you lent me. It's a great story and it's very
- 5 Tania knows a lot about many things. She is very
- 6 Mark's clothes are always smart. He is always
- 7 Jane has a lot of responsibility in her job, but she isn't very

101.3 Are the underlined words right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 I'm tired because I've been working hard. OK
- 2 I tried hard to remember her name, but I couldn't.
- 3 This coat is practically unused. I've hardly worn it.
- 4 Judy is a good tennis player. She hits the ball hardly.
- 5 Don't walk so fast! I can't keep up with you.
- 6 I had plenty of time, so I was walking slow.

101.4 Complete the sentences. Use hardly + the following verbs (in the correct form):

change hear ~~know~~ recognise say sleep speak

- 1 Scott and Tracy have only met once before. They hardly know each other.
- 2 You're speaking very quietly. I can you.
- 3 I'm very tired this morning. I last night.
- 4 We were so shocked when we heard the news, we could
- 5 Kate was very quiet this evening. She a word.
- 6 You look the same now as you looked 15 years ago. You've
- 7 I met Dave a few days ago. I hadn't seen him for a long time and he looks very different now. I him.

101.5 Complete these sentences with hardly + any/anybody/anything/anywhere/ever.

- 1 I'll have to go shopping. There's hardly anything to eat.
- 2 It was a very warm day and there was wind.
- 3 'Do you know much about computers?' 'No,
- 4 The hotel was almost empty. There was staying there.
- 5 I listen to the radio quite often, but I watch television.
- 6 Our new boss is not very popular. likes her.
- 7 It was very crowded in the room. There was to sit.
- 8 We used to be good friends, but we see each other now.
- 9 It was nice driving this morning. There was traffic.
- 10 I hate this town. There's to do and to go.