

CAE MINI LESSON

LET'S LEARN ABOUT:
ADVERB MODIFIERS



ADVERB MODIFIERS

- **Adverbs that modify gradable adjectives:**

We use the following adverbs to modify gradable adjectives:

fairly, pretty, rather, quite, really, very, extremely

She is quite passionate about politics.

I would say that he is fairly qualified for the job.

The car crash was pretty serious and we were extremely lucky that no one was injured.

- **Adverbs that modify extreme adjectives:**

We use the following adverbs to modify ungradable adjectives:

absolutely, totally, quite, completely, pretty, rather

Even the elite runners were completely exhausted at the finishing line of the marathon.

Her juggling skills are absolutely amazing.

- **Adverbs that modify comparatives:**

We use the following adverbs to modify comparatives:

much, substantially, considerably, slightly, really, slightly, a little (bit), far

They were much better informed about the topic than we were.

He is slightly taller than his younger brother.

- **Adverb modifiers + superlatives:**

We use the following adverbs to modify superlatives:

definitely, easily, by far

She is by far the best performer.

They are definitely the worst celebrity chefs on TV.

There are other adverb modifiers of degree possible in English, but they are often collocations with specific adjectives, so these need to be learnt separately. There are examples of these in Unit 7:

*She's a **highly** resourceful person, so I am sure she'll find a solution.*

*I am **utterly** convinced that I will pass this time.*

ACTIVITIES

1. THE MOVIE WAS _____ INTERESTING; I
COULDN'T STOP WATCHING IT.
2. SHE _____ UNDERSTANDS THE COMPLEXITIES OF
QUANTUM PHYSICS.
3. THEY WERE _____ SURPRISED TO SEE THEIR OLD
FRIEND AT THE PARTY.
4. THE INSTRUCTIONS WERE _____ CLEAR, SO I HAD
NO TROUBLE ASSEMBLING THE FURNITURE.
5. HE _____ REGRETS NOT TAKING THE
OPPORTUNITY WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE.
6. THE CAKE WAS _____ DECORATED, MAKING IT
THE CENTERPIECE OF THE PARTY.
7. SHE SPEAKS FRENCH _____ FLUENTLY, ALMOST
LIKE A NATIVE SPEAKER.
8. THE COMPANY HAS _____ EXPANDED ITS
OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.
9. HE DRIVES _____ CAREFULLY, ESPECIALLY IN BAD
WEATHER.
10. THE CRITICS _____ PRAISED THE NEW PLAY,
CALLING IT A MASTERPIECE.

ANSWERS

1. THE MOVIE WAS EXTREMELY INTERESTING; I COULDN'T STOP WATCHING IT.
2. SHE FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE COMPLEXITIES OF QUANTUM PHYSICS.
3. THEY WERE COMPLETELY SURPRISED TO SEE THEIR OLD FRIEND AT THE PARTY.
4. THE INSTRUCTIONS WERE EXCEPTIONALLY CLEAR, SO I HAD NO TROUBLE ASSEMBLING THE FURNITURE.
5. HE DEEPLY REGRETS NOT TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE.
6. THE CAKE WAS ELABORATELY DECORATED, MAKING IT THE CENTERPIECE OF THE PARTY.
7. SHE SPEAKS FRENCH INCREDIBLY FLUENTLY, ALMOST LIKE A NATIVE SPEAKER.
8. THE COMPANY HAS SIGNIFICANTLY EXPANDED ITS OPERATIONS OVERSEAS.
9. HE DRIVES EXCEPTIONALLY CAREFULLY, ESPECIALLY IN BAD WEATHER.
10. THE CRITICS HIGHLY PRAISED THE NEW PLAY, CALLING IT A MASTERPIECE.