

Vocabulary for Describing Degree & Intensity

Exercise Worksheet • B2–C1 • British English

Name	_____
Date	_____
Teacher / Class	_____
Learning goal	Use degree and intensity vocabulary more precisely in sentences and short writing.

A. Sort the vocabulary by intensity

Write each word or phrase in the correct column. Use each item once.

Words to sort: slightly, a bit, fairly, quite, rather, highly, particularly, extremely, incredibly, utterly, completely, relatively, absolutely, moderately, especially

Small degree	Moderate degree	High degree	Extreme degree	Complete degree

B. Choose the best answer

Circle or underline the best option.

1. I was _____ surprised by how easy the test was. (slightly / utterly / absolutely)
2. The hotel staff were _____ polite and helpful. (exceptionally / a bit / relatively)
3. We are _____ aware of the risks involved. (fully / highly / deeply)
4. It was _____ cold, so we stayed indoors all afternoon. (extremely / fairly / relatively)
5. The two issues are _____ connected. (closely / hugely / mildly)
6. I'm _____ sure I left my keys on the kitchen table. (pretty / utterly / slightly)
7. His behaviour during the meeting was _____ ridiculous. (utterly / fairly / moderately)
8. The course is _____ recommended for Cambridge students. (highly / absolutely / a little)
9. The room was _____ smaller than it looked in the photos. (slightly / strongly / perfectly)
10. This area is _____ quiet compared with the city centre. (relatively / incredibly / totally)
11. She was _____ impressed by the presentation, especially the final part. (particularly / slightly / merely)
12. By the end of the journey, we were _____ exhausted. (absolutely / highly / rather)

C. Match the collocations

Match the beginnings (1–8) with the endings (a–h).

Beginnings	Endings
1. deeply	a. aware
2. highly	b. connected
3. perfectly	c. disappointed
4. seriously	d. ill
5. closely	e. clear
6. bitterly	f. effective
7. fully	g. recommended
8. strongly	h. opposed

Now write the correct pairs below: 1 __ 2 __ 3 __ 4 __ 5 __ 6 __ 7 __ 8 __

D. Rewrite the sentences using a stronger adjective

Replace the words in bold with one stronger word from the box. Use each word once.

Word box: freezing, boiling, starving, exhausted, tiny, huge, hilarious, filthy

1. It was very cold when we left the house.
2. After the hike, we were very tired.
3. I haven't eaten since breakfast. I'm very hungry.
4. The flat was very dirty when the tenants moved out.
5. Their new puppy is very small.
6. The shopping centre is very big.
7. That story was very funny.
8. It was very hot in the classroom.

E. Correct the mistake

Each sentence contains one mistake with degree or intensity vocabulary. Rewrite each sentence correctly.

1. I was very exhausted after the wedding.
2. The medicine is deeply effective.
3. She is highly worried about the result.

4. It was absolutely interesting, but not amazing.
5. We are strongly aware of the problem.
6. The film was a bit fantastic.
7. His excuse was completely annoyed.
8. I'm relatively certain that she totally dislikes me.

F. Complete the sentences

Use one suitable word or phrase in each gap. More than one answer may be possible in some cases.

1. The instructions were _____ clear, so nobody asked any questions.
2. I only felt _____ nervous before the interview, not terribly worried.
3. This grammar guide is _____ useful for students preparing for B2 First.
4. We were _____ disappointed when the concert was cancelled at the last minute.
5. Compared with London, public transport here is _____ cheap.
6. By the time we got home, we were _____ exhausted.
7. I agree with you to _____ extent, but I still have some doubts.
8. Her progress has been _____ impressive this term.

G. Make your own sentences

Write one original sentence with each expression.

- **rather:** _____

- **particularly:** _____

- **not in the slightest:** _____

- **by far:** _____

- **more or less:** _____

- **utterly:** _____

H. Mini writing task

Write 80–120 words about one of the topics below. Try to use at least five words or expressions of degree and intensity.

- Describe a difficult day you had and explain how you felt.
- Write a short review of a film, book, restaurant, or holiday.
- Describe a place you know well and compare it with another place.

Answer Key

Vocabulary for Describing Degree & Intensity

A. Suggested sorting

- Small degree: slightly, a bit, relatively
- Moderate degree: fairly, quite, rather, moderately
- High degree: highly, particularly, especially
- Extreme degree: extremely, incredibly
- Complete degree: utterly, completely, absolutely

Note: a few words can shift slightly depending on context, but these groupings are the most useful for learners.

B. Choose the best answer

1. slightly, 2. exceptionally, 3. fully, 4. extremely, 5. closely, 6. pretty, 7. utterly, 8. highly, 9. slightly, 10. relatively, 11. particularly, 12. absolutely

C. Collocations

Correct pairs: 1 c 2 f 3 e 4 d 5 b 6 h 7 a 8 g

D. Stronger adjectives

1. freezing
2. exhausted
3. starving
4. filthy
5. tiny
6. huge
7. hilarious
8. boiling

E. Error correction

1. I was absolutely / utterly exhausted after the wedding.
2. The medicine is highly effective.
3. She is deeply worried about the result.
4. It was quite / really interesting, but not amazing.
5. We are fully aware of the problem.
6. The film was absolutely fantastic. / The film was a bit interesting.
7. His excuse was completely ridiculous. / He was completely annoyed.

8. I'm fairly / pretty certain that she dislikes me. (Using both relatively and totally here sounds unnatural.)

F. Complete the sentences

1. perfectly
2. slightly / a bit / a little
3. particularly / especially
4. deeply / bitterly
5. relatively
6. utterly / absolutely
7. a certain / some
8. remarkably / exceptionally / particularly

G–H. Open answers

- Accept any grammatically correct and natural sentence using the target expression accurately.
- For the writing task, check whether the learner uses at least five suitable words or expressions of degree and intensity, with mostly correct collocation and register.