

The background features a light blue gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across the surface. In the center, there is a faint, semi-transparent globe of the Earth.

ADJECTIVES: INTENSIFIERS

NIVELES A2/B1 INGLÉS

EOI SEVILLA

REALLY, VERY, AND EXTREMELY

- *PRETTY, FAIRLY, REALLY, VERY, AND QUITE* ARE PLACED DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF ADJECTIVES OR ADVERBS TO ADD TO THEIR MEANING. OFTEN THEY MAKE THE MEANING OF THE ADVERB OR ADJECTIVE STRONGER, OR *MORE INTENSE*. FOR THIS REASON, THESE WORDS ARE CALLED *INTENSIFIERS*.
- HOWEVER, SOME INTENSIFIERS WEAKEN THE MEANING OF THE ADJECTIVE OR ADVERB THAT THEY MODIFY. IN THE DESCRIPTIONS BELOW, THE INTENSIFIERS MENTIONED ABOVE ARE PRESENTED IN ORDER OF THEIR STRENGTH, FROM STRONGEST TO WEAKEST.
- **REALLY, VERY, AND EXTREMELY**
- *REALLY* AND *VERY* ARE STRONG. WHEN ONE OF THESE WORDS IS PLACED IN FRONT OF AN ADJECTIVE OR ADVERB, IT MAKES THE MEANING OF THAT ADJECTIVE OR ADVERB MORE INTENSE, MORE POWERFUL, AS IN THE EXAMPLES SHOWN. THE MEANING OF *REALLY* AND *VERY* IS SIMILAR TO THE MEANING OF ANOTHER INTENSIFIER: *EXTREMELY*.
 - SHE DID *VERY* WELL ON THE TEST. (=SHE DIDN'T SIMPLY DO WELL, SHE DID EXTREMELY WELL)
 - THE WATER IS *REALLY* COLD. (=THE WATER ISN'T JUST COLD, IT'S EXTREMELY COLD)

MITIGATORS: QUITE

- WHEN *QUITE* IS PLACED IN FRONT OF AN ADJECTIVE OR ADVERB, IT ADDS STRENGTH, BUT NOT AS MUCH STRENGTH AS *REALLY* OR *VERY*. ONE WAY TO THINK OF *QUITE* IS THAT IT TELLS YOU THAT THE DEGREE OF INTENSITY IS NOTICEABLE AND MORE THAN EXPECTED.
 - THE ENTERTAINMENT WAS *QUITE* GOOD. (=THE ENTERTAINMENT WAS NOTICEABLY GOOD, PERHAPS BETTER THAN EXPECTED)
 - BLUE JAYS ARE *QUITE* COMMON IN THIS AREA. (=BLUE JAYS ARE NOTICEABLY COMMON, MORE COMMON THAN YOU MIGHT EXPECT.)
- **WARNING:** WHEN WE USE **QUITE** WITH A **STRONG ADJECTIVE** IT MEANS THE SAME AS **ABSOLUTELY**:
 - THE FOOD WAS **QUITE** AWFUL. = THE FOOD WAS ABSOLUTELY AWFUL.
AS A CHILD HE WAS **QUITE** BRILLIANT. = AS A CHILD HE WAS ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT.
- MITIGATORS ARE THE **OPPOSITE OF INTENSIFIERS**. WHEN WE WANT TO MAKE AN ADJECTIVE **LESS STRONG** WE USE THESE WORDS: **FAIRLY - RATHER - QUITE - A LITTLE - MILDLY**
 - BY THE END OF THE DAY WE WERE **RATHER** TIRED. (*RATHER IS THE FORMAL VERSION OF QUITE*)
 - THE FILM WASN'T GREAT BUT IT WAS **QUITE** EXCITING.
- AND IN INFORMAL ENGLISH: **PRETTY**
 - WE HAD A **PRETTY** GOOD TIME AT THE PARTY.

FAIRLY, PRETTY, AND SOMEWHAT

- *FAIRLY* AND *PRETTY* WEAKEN THE ADVERBS OR ADJECTIVES THAT THEY MODIFY. THEY TELL YOU THAT THE QUALITY DESCRIBED BY THE ADVERB OR ADJECTIVE IS PRESENT, BUT ONLY TO A LIMITED EXTENT, AS SHOWN IN THE EXAMPLES BELOW. THE MEANING OF *FAIRLY* AND *PRETTY* IS SIMILAR TO THE MEANING OF ANOTHER INTENSIFIER: *SOMEWHAT*.
 - IT'S A *FAIRLY* COMMON DISEASE. (=IT'S NOT COMMON, BUT IT'S NOT RARE, EITHER. IT'S *SOMEWHAT* COMMON.)
 - THE MOVIE WAS *PRETTY* GOOD BUT NOT GREAT. (=THE MOVIE WASN'T GOOD, BUT IT WASN'T BAD EITHER. IT WAS OKAY.)
 - I HAVE TO LEAVE *PRETTY* SOON. (=I DON'T HAVE TO LEAVE RIGHT NOW, BUT I CAN'T STAY FOR A LONG TIME.)
- **CAUTION:** ALTHOUGH THESE INTENSIFIERS ARE COMMON IN SPOKEN AND INFORMAL ENGLISH, IN WRITTEN ENGLISH, THEIR USE IS OFTEN DISCOURAGED. MANY WRITERS AND WRITING TEACHERS FEEL THAT USING WORDS LIKE *REALLY*, *VERY*, AND *PRETTY* WEAKENS YOUR WRITING AND THAT WRITERS SHOULD FIND OTHER WAYS TO COMMUNICATE INTENSITY.

OTHER INTENSIFIERS

- **'SO'** IS POPULAR IN AMERICAN ENGLISH AS AN INFORMAL EQUIVALENT TO **'VERY'**. IN THIS WAY IT IS COMMON IN SPEAKING AND SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORKS. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD NOT BE USED IN MORE FORMAL WRITING/SPEECH.
- **'TOO'** IS GENERALLY USED TO INDICATE SOMETHING IS **VERY NEGATIVE**.
 - *'IT'S TOO COLD OUT TO PLAY.'*
 - *'SHE'S TOO BOSSY.'*
 - *"HE'S TOO STRICT."*
- WE USE OTHER INTENSIFIERS TO MAKE ADJECTIVES STRONGER SUCH AS:
 - *TOTALLY AMAZINGLY EXCEPTIONALLY INCREDIBLY REMARKABLY PARTICULARLY UNUSUALLY*
- WE ALSO USE *ENOUGH* TO SAY MORE ABOUT AN ADJECTIVE, BUT *ENOUGH* COMES **AFTER** ITS ADJECTIVE:
 - *IF YOU ARE SEVENTEEN YOU ARE OLD **ENOUGH** TO DRIVE A CAR.
I CAN'T WEAR THOSE SHOES. THEY'RE NOT BIG **ENOUGH**.*

INTENSIFIERS WITH STRONG ADJECTIVES:

- STRONG ADJECTIVES ARE WORDS LIKE:
 - *ENORMOUS, HUGE* = VERY BIG
 - TINY, MINUTE* = VERY SMALL
 - BRILLIANT* = VERY CLEVER
 - AWFUL; TERRIBLE; DISGUSTING; DREADFUL* = VERY BAD
 - CERTAIN* = VERY SURE
 - EXCELLENT; PERFECT; IDEAL; WONDERFUL; SPLENDID* = VERY GOOD
 - DELICIOUS* = VERY TASTY
- WE DO **NOT** NORMALLY USE *VERY* WITH THESE ADJECTIVES. WE DO NOT SAY SOMETHING IS "VERY ENORMOUS" OR SOMEONE IS "VERY BRILLIANT".
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- WITH STRONG ADJECTIVES, WE NORMALLY USE INTENSIFIERS LIKE: *ABSOLUTELY COMPLETELY TOTALLY UTTERLY REALLY EXCEPTIONALLY PARTICULARLY QUITE*
 - *THE FILM WAS **ABSOLUTELY AWFUL**.*
 - HE WAS AN **EXCEPTIONALLY BRILLIANT** CHILD.*
 - THE FOOD SMELLED **REALLY DISGUSTING**.*
- ORDER OF ADJECTIVES