

Extreme Adjectives

Usage

Extreme adjectives are non-gradable, and their meaning already includes the modifier “very”.

We use extreme adjectives to add variety, nuance and emotion to the way we speak.

Dos and Don'ts

1- Do not use extreme adjectives as comparatives and superlatives.

2- Only use the modifiers absolutely, utterly, really or pretty.

3- Make sure the meaning of the extreme adjective is suitable for the context you're using it in.

I like to keep my house **very clean**.

.....

I like to keep my house **spotless**.

.....



Many common adjectives have more than one extreme adjective.

This building is huge.

=

This building is massive.

My holidays were fantastic.

=

My holidays were great.

That's terrible news.

=

That's awful news.

Extreme adjectives

Regular adjectives

Extreme adjectives

very small



tiny

I have a tiny flat.

very big



huge

That building is huge.

very good



great

The painting looks great in the new frame.

very bad



terrible

I have a terrible headache.

very hot



boiling

It's been sunny and boiling for a week.

very cold



freezing

My hands are freezing.

very clean



spotless

Wow, your house is spotless!

very dirty



filthy

It's muddy outside so my shoes are filthy.

very happy



delighted

I would be delighted to accept the offer.

very sad



miserable

I feel miserable when the weather's bad.

Extreme adjectives

Regular adjectives

Extreme adjectives

very funny



hilarious

I love his movies. They're hilarious.

very angry



furious

Seeing abuse and inequality makes me furious.

very scary



terrifying

I think snakes are terrifying.

very interesting



fascinating

That's a fascinating problem.

very unusual



extraordinary

This is an extraordinary result.

very hungry



starving

I haven't eaten all day. I am starving.

very tasty



delicious

This cake is delicious.

very tired



exhausted

I got up at 5 am today. I am exhausted.

very old



ancient

The museum exhibits ancient vases and artefacts.

very wet



soaking

I got caught in the rain and now I'm soaking.