

Intensifiers

Intensifiers are words that increase the level of an adjective in a sentence. They are placed **immediately before** the adjective. Below are the typical strong, medium and weak intensifiers.

STRONG

amazingly so
exceptionally very
extremely
incredibly
particularly
really
remarkably

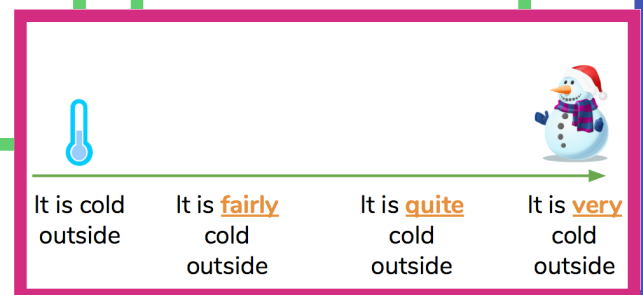
MEDIUM

quite
unusually

WEAK

fairly
pretty
rather

But unfortunately we can't use every single intensifier for every single adjective.



Non-gradable adjectives use intensifiers in a different way. A non-gradable adjective is;

- An adjective that cannot be modified because it is a complete state (e.g. **dead**, **finished**, **perfect**). You can't be a little bit or a lot - dead, finished or perfect.
- An adjective that is extreme (e.g. **amazing**, **tiny**, **enormous**) "Small" is a regular adjective, but "tiny" expresses the extreme of this meaning.

Non-gradable adjectives can only use intensifiers such as **absolutely**, **completely**, **exceptionally**, **particularly**, **really**, **quite**, **totally** and **utterly**. They cannot use "very".

This house is very tiny

This house is **absolutely** tiny

We also have **collocations** with intensifiers. This means natives use a particular intensifier with a particular adjective. For example, "**highly unlikely**" - It is highly unlikely I will be fluent in German in a year.