



**iCursed**

**GRADABLE & NON-  
GRADABLE ADJECTIVES**

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## Adjectives (gradable / non-gradable)

Adjectives can be either gradable or non-gradable

### Gradable

Gradable adjectives are adjectives like **'cold'** **'hot'** and **'frightened'**. You can be *very cold* or a *bit cold*. Gradable adjectives show that something can have different degrees.

### Non-gradable

Non-gradable adjectives are adjectives like **'married'** or **'wooden'**. You can't be *very married* or a *bit married*. Non-gradable adjectives do not have different degrees. You suffer the quality of these adjectives 100% or 0%.

Adjectives like **'terrifying'**, **'freezing'** **'amazing'** are also non-gradable adjectives. They already contain the idea of **'very'** in their definitions – **'freezing'** means *'very cold'* etc.

### Using adverbs of degree

When we use adverbs of degree to modify adjectives we have to use different adverbs for gradable and non-gradable adjectives. In order to that, saying "I'm completely hot" is totally wrong as saying "It was a bit fantastic". Correct forms would be "I'm hot" and "it was fantastic". So we are going to learn how to correctly use adverbs of degree with gradable and non-gradable adjectives:

### With gradable adjectives

- *It's a bit cold outside.*
- *She's very interested in photography.*
- *This exam was really difficult.*
- *The dessert is a extremely dry place.*
- *I'm quite tired.*

The adverbs **a bit**, **very**, **really**, **extremely** and **quite** can all be used with gradable adjectives.

### With non-gradable adjectives

- *It's absolutely freezing outside.*
- *She's completely fascinated by photography*
- *This exam was absolutely impossible.*
- The dessert climate is completely dry.

The adverbs **absolutely** and **completely** can be used with non-gradable adjectives.

You should notice that **really** can be used with both gradable AND non-gradable adjectives.

There are other adverbs of degree that we haven't covered in this unit. The ones included here are just a sample of the most common ones.

## EXERCISES

Fill the gaps using the words in brackets.

1. He finished..... exhausted. (a bit / totally )
2. She's a ..... fantastic writer. (absolutely /very )
3. Those towers are ..... high. (absolutely / pretty )
4. Liverpool is ..... interesting place. (quite / rather )
5. Your new flatmate is ..... lazy. (absolutely / extremely )
6. It was ..... freezing this morning. (a bit / absolutely )
7. Caroline is ..... mad. (completely / highly )
8. Lara looked ..... gorgeous yesterday night. (absolutely / totally )
9. Mike is ..... nice. (absolutely / really )
10. Stratford Upon Avon is a ..... pretty town. (quite / rather )

Fill the table with gradable and non gradable adjectives from the first exercise

Gradable adjectives	Non-gradable adjectives

Choose the right option to complete the following sentences

1. United States it's a \_\_\_\_\_ great country. ( really / very )
2. It was a \_\_\_\_\_ simple invention. ( quite / remarkably )
3. Selena is a \_\_\_\_\_ skilled artist. ( completely / highly )
4. Faith is living a \_\_\_\_\_ stressful life. ( quite / very )
5. Callum sings \_\_\_\_\_ well. ( absolutely / fairly )
6. The festival was \_\_\_\_\_ wonderful. ( absolutely / extremely )
7. Rodin's works are \_\_\_\_\_ well-known. ( absolutely / very )

Fill in the gaps with a gradable or non-gradable adjective

1. It is \_\_\_\_\_ cold in Alaska. I think I couldn't live in there
2. When the baby started to laugh it was \_\_\_\_\_ hilarious.
3. Deena was \_\_\_\_\_ terrified after that horror movie.
4. My boyfriend is \_\_\_\_\_ brilliant. This is his third degree.
5. I was \_\_\_\_\_ tired after running through the beach.
6. I find opera \_\_\_\_\_ fascinating.
7. I was \_\_\_\_\_ surprised when he told me he gave up his project