

Extreme Adjectives

Many adjectives in English have an “extreme” version. Learning and using these words can improve your English dramatically.

E.g. *Blue whales are big.*



Blue whales are huge.



1. Match the adjectives below with to the “extreme adjective” with the same meaning

- | | |
|------------|------------------------|
| a. Tasty | 1. Exhausted <i>B</i> |
| b. Tired | 2. Filthy <i>D</i> |
| c. Nervous | 3. Freezing <i>F</i> |
| d. Dirty | 4. Hideous <i>J</i> |
| e. Pretty | 5. Tiny <i>I</i> |
| f. Cold | 6. Beautiful <i>E</i> |
| g. Old | 7. Delicious <i>A</i> |
| h. Happy | 8. Ancient <i>G</i> |
| i. Small | 9. Anxious <i>C</i> |
| j. Ugly | 10. Delighted <i>H</i> |



2. Sally is looking for a new group house. She sends her father a message to update him on her situation. Fill in the gaps with an “extreme” adjective from exercise 1.

Hi Dad, I spent all week looking for apartments, I'm *exhausted!* The first place I saw was nice, it had a *beautiful* balcony with a great view of the park, but the bedroom was *tiny*, it wouldn't even fit my bed! After that I went to a place in a great neighbourhood, it looked nice from the outside, but inside it was painted in the most *hideous* orange colour I have ever seen, it made my eyes hurt. The place I saw yesterday was the worst of all. I think the people who live there never clean it, it was *filthy!* I even saw a mouse. On top of that they said they never turn on the heating to save money, so in winter it's going to be *freezing!* I'm really *anxious* about finding a place, I know I need to find one soon, but I can't find anything I like. Maybe I should move into the orange house?



3. Read the sentences below and choose the correct definition of the underlined adjective

- a) When my boss found out about the stolen laptop he was furious!
1. Very sad 2. Very funny **3. Very angry** 4. Very hungry
- b) It is vital that he has his medication every day!
1. Very scary 2. Very upset 3. Very crazy **4. Very important**
- c) He's a gifted chess player, he's only 12 years old and he's a national champion!
- 1. Very talented** 2. Very curious 3. Very aggressive 4. Very naughty
- d) Harry doesn't even try at work anymore. It's obvious he doesn't care about his job.
- 1. Very clear** 2. Very smelly 3. Very difficult 4. Very crazy
- e) I'm starving, can we stop for lunch soon?
1. Very stupid 2. Very patient 3. Very nice **4. Very hungry**
- f) He just bought a \$32,000 car and he doesn't even have a job, he's insane!
1. Very responsible **2. Very crazy** 3. Very strange 4. Very cute
- g) We should be cautious, it's dark and this is a dangerous area.
1. Very strong 2. Very loud **3. Very careful** 4. Very sick
- h) This is the best comedy I've ever seen, it's hilarious!
1. Very sunburnt **2. Very funny** 3. Very lazy 4. Very long

Adjectives vs Adverbs

Adjectives are words which give information to nouns.

Eg. *The man is insane!* (*Insane* gives information to the noun: *man*)

To give information to a verb, "ly" is added to the end of an adjective, making it an adverb.

Eg *He drives insanely fast!* (*Insanely* gives information to the verb *drives*)



4. Choose between the adjective and adverb to complete the sentences.

- a) At the end of the week I'm always exhausted / exhaustedly.
- b) My grandmother drives very cautious / cautiously, she never speeds.
- c) My dog barks furious / furiously anytime another dog gets near her.
- d) That is a hilarious / hilariously story!
- e) He waited anxious / anxiously for the results, checking his watch every few minutes.
- f) He obvious / obviously wanted to ask you on a date, I could see it in his eyes.
- g) John's mother was delighted / delightedly when he came home 2 months early.
- h) The politician had tiny / tinily hands, a fact he tried to hide.



5. Pick a card and ask your partner the question



What is the most hilarious movie you have ever seen?	Would you prefer to live in a freezing country or a boiling one?	Do you like huge parties?
What is a food you wouldn't eat even if you were starving?	Have you ever known anyone you thought was insane?	When was the last time you were furious?
What is the filthiest house you have ever seen?	Do you know anybody who is very gifted at something (E.g. sports or music)?	What is something that is vital to your job?
If you could live in an ancient castle, would you?	What is a food you think is delicious?	What type of clothing/haircut/car do you think is hideous?
When was the last time you were delighted?	When was the last time you were exhausted?	Do you think you are a cautious person?
What is something that makes you feel anxious?	What is a fact that you find fascinating?	Do you like tiny dogs?

