

English Grammar:

Simple Adjectives & Modifiers vs Extreme Adjectives & Modifiers

In English, when we want to emphasize a **simple adjective** (such as “**good**”), we can use a **simple modifier** such as “**very**”. Here are some examples:

The film was **very good**.

She is **really pretty**.

It is **quite cold**.

However, when we want to emphasize an **extreme adjective** (such as “**fantastic**”), it is better to use an “**extreme modifier**” such as “**extremely**”. Here are some examples:

The film was **extremely fantastic**.

She is **incredibly beautiful**.

It is **absolutely freezing**.

If we use a **simple adjective**, then it sounds better to use a **simple modifier**, and if we use an **extreme adjective**, then it sounds better to use an **extreme modifier**.

Look at the lists below.

Simple Adjective	Extreme Adjective
good	excellent/fantastic/marvellous/amazing
bad	horrible/terrible
happy	delighted/ecstatic
sad	miserable
tired	exhausted
angry	furious
hot	boiling
cold	freezing
old	ancient
new	brand new
small	minute
big/large	huge/enormous/gigantic/massive
tasty	delicious
expensive	exorbitant
long	endless
important	essential
clever	brilliant/genial
dirty	filthy
clean	spotless
pretty	beautiful/stunning
nice	lovely/wonderful
strange	bizarre
surprising	astonishing
interesting	fascinating
Simple Modifiers	Extreme Modifiers
very, really, quite, rather, pretty, fairly, so	absolutely, totally, completely, extremely, incredibly

Exercise. Choose a suitable modifier for each adjective:

I love cooking, in fact I think it's a/an _____ **fantastic** activity to do. I mean, you can really go to town and experiment with lots of _____ **interesting** ingredients, to create some _____ **marvellous** flavours. I am always _____ **happy** when I'm in the kitchen, it even helps me to break out of a/an _____ **bad** mood. I often like to try _____ **new** recipes as well as using _____ **old** ones, which I do when I'm _____ **tired**. My husband demands that I keep a/an _____ **spotless** kitchen, as this is a/an _____ **essential** duty of any cook. I don't always make _____ **expensive** dishes, but I sometimes like to surprise my husband with a/an _____ **strange** dish. When he is _____ **miserable** or _____ **exhausted**, my culinary efforts frequently leave him _____ **delighted!**