

Adjectives and Adverbs (2) (*well/fast/late, hard/hardly*)

A

Good/well

Good is an *adjective*. The *adverb* is well:

- Your English is good. *but* You speak English well.
- Susan is a good pianist. *but* Susan plays the piano well.

We use well (*not* good) with *past participles* (dressed/known, etc.):

- well dressed well known well educated well paid

B

Fast/hard/late

These words are both adjectives and adverbs:

- | <i>adjective</i> | <i>adverb</i> |
|-------------------------------|--|
| ■ Jack is a very fast runner. | Jack can run very fast. |
| ■ Ann is a hard worker. | Ann works hard. (<i>not</i> works hardly) |
| ■ The train was late. | I got up late this morning. |

Lately = recently:

- Have you seen Tom lately?

C

Hardly

Hardly = very little, almost not at all. Study these examples:

- Sarah wasn't very friendly to me at the party. She **hardly** spoke to me. (= she spoke to me very little, almost not at all)
- George and June want to get married, but they've only known each other for a few days. I don't think they should get married yet. They **hardly** know each other. (= they know each other very little)

Hard and hardly are completely different. Compare:

- He tried **hard** to find a job, but he had no luck. (= he tried a lot, with a lot of effort)
- I'm not surprised he didn't find a job. He **hardly** tried to find one. (= he tried very little)

We often use hardly + any/anybody/anyone/anything/anywhere:

- A: How much money have you got?
B: **Hardly any**. (= very little, almost none)
- I'll have to go shopping. We **hardly** have any food.
- The exam results were very bad. **Hardly anybody** in our class passed. (= very few students passed)
- She **hardly** ate anything. She wasn't feeling hungry. (= she ate very little, almost nothing)

Note the position of hardly. You can say:

- She **hardly** ate anything. *or* She ate **hardly** anything.
- We **hardly** have any food. *or* We have **hardly** any food.

I can hardly do something = it's almost impossible for me to do it:

- Your writing is terrible. I **can hardly** read it. (= it is almost impossible for me to read it)
- My leg was hurting me. I **could hardly** walk.

Hardly ever = almost never:

- I'm almost always at home at night. I **hardly ever** go out.



We hardly have any food.

Exercises

98.1 Put in *good* or *well*.

- I play tennis, but I'm not very good.
- Your exam results were _____.
- You did very _____ on your exam.
- The weather was very _____ while we were on vacation.
- I didn't sleep _____ last night.
- Jason speaks Spanish very _____.
- Jason's Spanish is very _____.
- Our new business is going very _____ at the moment.
- I like your jacket. It looks _____ on you.
- I've met her a few times, but I don't know her _____.

98.2 Complete these sentences using *well* + one of the following words:

balanced behaved dressed informed kept known paid

- The children were very good. They were well behaved.
- I'm surprised you haven't heard of her. She is quite _____.
- Our neighbors' yard is neat and clean. It is very _____.
- You should eat different types of food. Your diet should be _____.
- Ann knows a lot about many things. She is quite _____.
- His clothes were wrinkled and dirty. He wasn't very _____.
- Jill has a lot of responsibility in her job, but she isn't very _____.

98.3 Are the underlined words right or wrong? Correct the ones that are wrong.

- I'm tired because I've been working hardly. hard
- I tried hard to remember her name, but I couldn't.
- This coat is practically unused. I've hardly worn it.
- She's a good tennis player. She hits the ball hardly.
- Don't walk so fast! I can't keep up with you.
- Why are you walking so slow? Are you tired?

98.4 Complete these sentences with *hardly* + one of the following verbs in the correct form:

change hear know recognize say sleep speak

- Scott and Amy have only met once before. They hardly know each other.
- You're speaking very quietly. I can _____ you.
- I'm very tired this morning. I _____ last night.
- We were so shocked when we heard the news, we could _____.
- Kate was very quiet tonight. She _____ a word.
- You look almost the same now as you looked 15 years ago. You've _____.
- I met Dave a few days ago. I hadn't seen him for a long time, and he looks very different now. I _____ him.

98.5 Complete these sentences with *hardly* + *any/anybody/anything/anywhere/ever*.

- I'll have to go shopping. We have hardly any food.
- It was nice driving this morning. There was _____ traffic.
- "Do you know much about computers?" "No, _____."
- The hotel was almost empty. There was _____ staying there.
- I listen to the radio a lot, but I _____ watch television.
- Our new boss isn't very popular. _____ likes her.
- We used to be good friends, but we _____ see each other now.
- I hate this town. There's _____ to do and _____ to go.