22 Common adjectives: good and bad things

A (+) 'good' adjectives

A **good** restaurant.   A **better** restaurant.   The **best** restaurant in town.

This restaurant is **better than** that one.
nice (+) lovely (++) wonderful (+++) excellent (++++)

A: That's a **nice** jacket.
B: Thank you.

A: It's **a lovely** day today!
B: Yes, it is.

A **wonderful** view

Mary's a **wonderful** person.
Everybody loves her.

A: Do you want to go to London on Saturday?
B: That's an **excellent** (= very good) idea!

When you answer and want to say how you feel:
A: The train arrives at six o'clock; dinner is at seven.
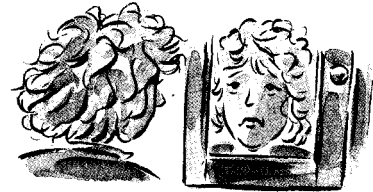B: **Excellent! / Great! / Wonderful! / Lovely! / Perfect!**

B (-) 'bad' adjectives

bad (worse / the worst) (-)   awful (- -)   terrible (- - -)   horrible (- - -)

bad weather   My hair is **awful!**

The weather last year was **worse than** this year.
Tim is a **horrible** person. Nobody likes him. (used about people)
I had a **terrible** day at work today. (used about situations)
The traffic's **terrible** at 5 o'clock on Fridays.

Note: We often say **not bad** when we are speaking:
A: I get $500 a week in my job.
B: That's **not bad!** (= good!)

You can say these adjectives with **how:**
A: I have to get up at 5.30 tomorrow.
B: Oh, **how awful! / horrible!** [NOT how bad]

Exercises

22.1 Fill the gaps, as in the example.

1 My hair's ...*awful*..... I must go to the hairdresser's.
2 The weather's .... I don't want to go out.
3 The traffic is .... in the city centre. Take the train.
4 That's a(n) .... idea! Let's do it!
5 How ....! Three exams on the same day!
6 What a .... house! The sea is only 100 metres away!
7 My timetable's not .... I'm free on Wednesdays and Fridays.

22.2 What can you say? Someone says to you ...

1 Do you like my new jacket?
2 I have to get up at 4.30 tomorrow morning.
3 Shall we go out for dinner tonight?
4 (*In your town*) Excuse me. Is there a good restaurant in this town?
5 What sort of person is your English teacher?

22.3 What goes together? Match a description from the left with an expression from the right. Draw lines.

1 Blue sky, sun 25°.   a Wonderful news.
2 5 stars (★★★★★), very famous.   b Awful weather.
3 Bad person. Nobody likes him/her.   c Lovely weather.
4 90 out of 100 in an exam.   d An excellent idea.
5 Grey sky, wind, rain, 11°.   e The best hotel in town.
6 We can take a taxi.   f A horrible person.

22.4 Use a dictionary. Put these new words into the *good* or *bad* column.

dreadful   ghastly   gorgeous   marvellous   horrendous   fine   superb   brilliant

good (+)   *bad (-)*

                              dreadful

22.5 Look at the adjectives in 22.4. Think of two nouns to go with each of the adjectives.

dreadful weather/film