

### Gradable and Extreme Adjectives- Anecdotes Game

Take turns being the person telling a personal story and being the person listening and reacting. Both of you should try to use as many of the words in the table below (including the adverbs in the left-hand column) as you can while you do so, ticking off individual words with different coloured pens as you do so. Note that most of the adverbs cannot go with all of the adjectives. Your partner can cross off your tick if the same word has already been used or if they think that the word has been used in the wrong way. The person with the most ticks at the end of the game is the winner.

#### Useful phrases for reacting to people's anecdotes

Didn't you feel...?  
 I guess it was.../ I'm sure it was.../ I suppose you felt...  
 I had a similar experience. It was...  
 That must have been.../ You must have felt...  
 That sounds...  
 Did you?/ Really? I would have been.../ Actually, I remember it being...

#### Useful adverbs + adjectives for telling anecdotes

|            |   |
|------------|---|
|            | amazing/ excellent/ fabulous/ good/ superb/ terrific/ wonderful |
|            | amusing/ funny/ hilarious                                       |
|            | awful/ bad/ dreadful/ terrible                                  |
|            | big/ enormous/ gigantic/ huge/ large/ massive                   |
|            | boring/ mind-numbing  |
|            | confusing/ mind-boggling  |
| (a little) | crammed/ crowded/ jam-packed/ packed                            |
| absolutely | crazy/ eccentric  |
| completely | crucial/ essential/ important/ vital                            |
| extremely  | delicious/ mouth-watering/ tasty                                |
| fairly     | delightful/ lovely/ nice  |
| incredibly | difficult/ impossible/ tricky                                   |
| not very   | dirty/ filthy   |
| really     | disgusting/ revolting/ yucky                                    |
| (slightly) | ear-splitting/ loud/ noisy                                      |
| totally    | exciting/ thrilling   |
| utterly    | exhausting/ tiring  |
| very       | exorbitant/ expensive/ pricey                                   |
|            | fascinating/ interesting  |
|            | frantic/ worried  |
|            | frightening/ scary/ terrifying                                  |
|            | gorgeous/ pretty/ stunning                                      |
|            | horrible/ nasty   |
|            | hungry/ starving  |
|            | idiotic/ stupid   |
|            | little/ small/ tiny   |
|            | memorable/ unforgettable  |
|            | parched/ thirsty  |
|            | soaked/ wet   |

**Extreme adjectives grammar presentation**

*All the lines of adjectives above can be divided into two kinds, those which can be graded from a low level to a high level (= gradable adjectives) and those which cannot, because they mean “very + gradable adjective” and so can only be used with adverbs that make them more extreme. Without looking above for now, put pairs of adjectives next to each other in the two boxes of the table below. Many others not below are also possible.*

| +                                       |                 | +                         |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>extreme adjective (= ungradable)</b> | <b>= very +</b> | <b>gradable adjective</b> |
|   |                 |                           |

### Partial answers

The gradable adjectives are in the right place below. Try to put the correct extreme adjective match next to each.

| adverbs before extreme adjectives |          | adverbs before gradable adjectives   |
|-----------------------------------|----------|--|
| +                                 |          | +  |
| extreme adjective (= ungradable)  | = very + | gradable adjective   |
|                                   |          | amusing/ funny<br>bad<br>big/ large<br>boring<br>confusing<br>crowded<br>difficult/ tricky<br>dirty<br>eccentric<br>exciting<br>expensive/ pricey<br>frightening/ scary<br>good<br>hungry<br>important<br>interesting<br>little/ small<br>loud/ noisy<br>memorable<br>nasty<br>nice<br>pretty<br>stupid<br>tasty<br>thirsty<br>tiring<br>wet<br>worried<br>yucky |

Check your answers with the first page, then put suitable adverbs into the top two boxes above. Rank the ones in the right-hand column from the strongest top to the least bottom. One adverb goes in both columns. The answers are on the next page.

**Adverbs which go with gradable and extreme adjectives**

*Ones in brackets only go with negative adjectives.*

| <b>adverbs before extreme adjectives</b>                 |  | <b>adverbs before gradable adjectives</b>   |
|--|--|---|
| absolutely<br>completely<br>really<br>totally<br>utterly |  | incredibly<br>extremely<br>really<br>very<br>fairly<br>not very<br>(a little)/ (slightly) |