

Adverbs - special cases

I. very, (very) much, very much, too, enough

II. also, too, as well, not ... either

III. already, yet, not ... yet, still

IV. even, only

V. fairly, quite, rather

I.

very = velmi, **(very) much** = velmi (mnoho); **very much** = velmi mnoho; **too** = příliš; **enough** = dost

Very is used **before adjectives**: *This method is very efficient.*

and **before -ing and -ed forms** used as **adjectives**:

The lecture was very boring.

He was very worried.

Notes:

- **Very** is **not used with verbs**. Wrong: *I very liked the show.*

- **Very** expresses a **rather high degree** or extent:

His grades are very good, but not excellent.

(Very) much is used before an **-ed form** which is **part of the passive**:

A change in the Master programme is (very) much needed.

Not: is very needed

Very much

When used with verbs that have an object, "very much" usually **follows the object**:

I liked the idea very much.

I doubt it very much.

When used with verbs followed by a **"to" infinitive** or a **"that" clause**, "very much" **precedes the verb or follows it**:

We very much want to attend that workshop.

We want to attend that workshop very much.

We very much hope (that) you'll join our project.

We hope very much (that) you'll join our project.

Too (= more than necessary, more than wanted):

He is too young to be eligible for that post. (= has not reached the age of eligibility)

Compare **too** with **very**:

The news is too good to be true. (= cannot be true, is hardly true)

The news is very good. (= more than good)

Enough (= the degree that is necessary or wanted):

He is experienced enough for that kind of job.

He has not enough experience for that kind of job.

I know enough about that subject.

Note:

Enough comes after the adjective/adverb/verb but **before the noun**.

II.

also, too, as well = také; not ... either = také ne

Also is used in the **mid position**:

I study in Pilsen and I also live there.

He is an engineer and his wife is also an engineer.

You should also have gone to the workshop; it was interesting.

Too and **as well** are usually used in the **end position**:

I study in Pilsen and I live there (,) too/as well.

He is an engineer and his wife is an engineer (,) too/as well.

You should have gone to that workshop (,) too/as well; it was interesting.

Notes:

- **Also, too, as well** are **not used in negative sentences**.
Use **not ... either** instead (see below).

- **Too** and **as well** are usually separated from the rest of the sentence by **a comma**.

- **In formal writing**,
also is preferable to **too**:
The second sample was also tested.
Rather than: *The second sample was tested, too.*

- **Too** is sometimes placed **after the subject**:
Students, too, should play a part in decision-making.

- In the adjective + noun construction, the indefinite **article** is placed **between the adjective and the noun**.
It's too high a price to pay for such equipment.
Not: *It's a too high price.*

Common mistake:

Wrong : *This equipment is too much expensive.*

Right: *This equipment is **too** expensive.*

Not ... either (used in negative sentences) comes in **the end position**:

I don't study in Pilsen and I don't live there either.

Common mistake:

Wrong: *I don't live there too.*

Right: *I **don't** live there **either**.*

III.

already = již, už; yet = už; not ... yet = ještě ne; still = (stále) ještě

Already is used in the **mid position** or in the **end position**:

I've already read your report.

I've read your report already.

Yet is used in **questions** in the **end position**:

Have you read my report yet?

Note:

Already is sometimes used in questions instead of **yet** to confirm what we assume has already happened (i.e. to express surprise that the action has been completed so soon):

Have you already read my report?

Not ... yet usually comes in the **end position**:

I haven't read your report yet.

It can also come in the **mid position** (more formal):

I haven't yet read your report.

We do not yet know a solution to this problem.

Still is used in the **mid position**:

Are you still reading my report?

He is still working on his thesis.

The machine still works.

Note:

Still in negative sentences (placed directly after the subject) is used to express surprise or disappointment:

You still haven't finished the report?

I still don't understand what you mean.

IV.

even = dokonce, i; only = pouze, jen

With both **even** and **only**, the **position** of the adverb gives the sentence a **slightly different meaning**.

Even

Even *he knows how to operate the machine.* (rather surprisingly, one would not expect it of him)

He even knows how to operate the machine. (he does not only know how it works, he can also operate it)

He knows how to operate **even** this machine. (apart from other machines he can also

operate this one, which may be more difficult)

Only

Only I can access that program. (I and nobody else)

I can **only** access that program. - (I know how to access it, but I do not know how to use it)

- (I can access only that program, i.e. no other program) ^x

I can access **only** that program. (only that program, i.e. no other program) ^{xx}

That dining room is for academic staff **only**. (and for no one else)

Notes:

- ^x and ^{xx} overlap in meaning - the former can mean the latter, but not vice versa.
- In **informal English**, **even** and **only** are commonly used in the **mid position** (before the verb). In **formal English**, it is safer to put them **before** the words they qualify to avoid ambiguity.

V.

fairly = dost (ale ne moc, s určitou výhradou)

quite = docela, poměrně; zcela

rather = docela, poměrně dost

Fairly expresses a reasonable but not very high degree, greater than average.

His degree thesis was written fairly well,

but some of his results are disputable.

Your grades are fairly good. (= but I think they could be better)

Quite = rather, relatively: *In some applications, this approach can be quite useful.*

= completely, absolutely: *In others, it is quite useless.*

Notes:

- With **gradable adjectives** (adjectives that can form the comparative and superlative, e.g. big/bigger/the biggest), quite = **rather, relatively**.
With **non-gradable adjectives** (adjectives that cannot form the comparative and superlative, e.g. if something is useless, it cannot be more useless – see the example above), quite = **completely, absolutely**.
Compare: *Your idea is quite good.* *Your idea is quite perfect.*
- **Together with not**, quite can be used with non-gradable adjectives:
That's not quite right. (= slightly less than right)
- Quite is also used **with verbs**:
I quite agree. I don't quite agree.
- Compare also the **position of the indefinite article**:
It was quite an interesting story. (= rather, relatively interesting)
It was quite an effort. (= rather a big effort)
It was a quite unbelievable offer. (= completely unbelievable)

- **Quite** expresses a **higher degree/extent** than fairly:
Your grades are quite good (= i.e. better than I expected)

Rather : *This idea is rather good.*

Organizing a conference at this Faculty is rather a good idea.

or: *Organizing a conference at this Faculty is a rather good idea.*

Notes:

- Rather can be used both **before and after the indefinite article**.
- It can also be used **with some verbs**, e.g. think, hope, like:
I rather like your idea.
- **Rather** expresses **quite a large degree or extent**, more than usual; it is **stronger than quite**:
Your grades are rather good. (i.e. much better than I expected)

EXERCISES

I. Complete the sentences with “very, very much, much” as required by the context.

- The Ministry’s decision to introduce registration fees made many students angry.
- I hope he’ll help us.
- Climate change is still underestimated.
- I found the lecture interesting.
- I doubt that the economic situation will improve.
- After the long journey all of us were tired.
- This problem was discussed at the conference.
- The smooth organization of the conference was appreciated by all participants.
- She was pleased with her results.
- That noise is annoying.

II. Complete the sentences with “enough” in the right place.

- Some of us had to stand; there were not chairs
- We don’t have room for all that equipment.
- If you work hard you won’t have to worry about that exam.
- Do you get support from your management?
- He spoke slowly but not slowly for us to understand.
- I have studied the subject to know what you are talking about.
- I have known him long to know what to expect of him.
- strangely, his paper was rejected.
- He is old to know how to behave.

III. Fill in “too” or “enough” as required by the context. Make sure that you choose the right place.

1. The problem was complicated to be solved in such a short time.
2. The equation was easy Everyone in the class was able to solve it.
3. "Do you think we should do that experiment"? "No, I think it's risky".
4. The device is small to put in my pocket.
5. "You shouldn't invest money in those shares; it's risky".
"I've already decided. I think it's safe"

IV. Complete the second sentence in each pair using "also, too, either". Example:

John is a first-year student.

Mary is also a first-year student.

Mary is a first-year student, too.

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Karel spent a semester abroad. | Hana |
| | Hana |
| 2. He isn't very keen on experiments. | She |
| 3. John has worked at the University for two years. | Mary |
| | Mary |
| 4. He didn't have to hurry. There was enough time. | She |
| 5. This procedure might be very slow. | That procedure |
| | That procedure |
| 6. She isn't to blame for this error. | He |

V. Reformulate the sentences using "already, yet, still" as required by the context.

1. The lecture had started when we arrived.
2. Are you here? I thought you had gone home.
3. Have you found a solution to this problem ?
4. "Has he sent us his results?" "No, he hasn't sent them, although he should have done so long ago".
5. Why do you want to see me? Have you brought your report? I didn't expect it so soon.
6. Are you working for the same company?
7. I can't believe that this is true.

VI. Place "even" or "only" where they seem most likely.

1. When he was promoted, 1)..... his rivals 2) agreed that the promotion was well deserved.
2. 1) they 2)..... suggested 3)..... a small change in the programme; they did not force anyone to accept it.
3. 1)..... they 2)..... suggested 3)..... a small change in the programme; all the others did not think it was necessary.
4. 1)..... they 2) suggested 3) a small change in the programme; I can't understand why the suggestion wasn't accepted.
5. 1)..... he can 2)..... design 3) such a program although he isn't the brightest student in the class.
6. 1) he can 2) design 3)..... such programs, not only use them.

7. 1) he can 2) design 3)..... sophisticated programs.
8. 1) she said she 2)..... started learning English a year ago; that's why she wasn't able to understand the speaker.
9. 1) Karel 2) solved that equation; all the others found it too difficult.
10. She is a strict vegetarian; 1) she doesn't 2) eat eggs.

VII. In which of the following sentences could you replace "quite" with

a) "fairly/rather"

b) "absolutely/completely"?

Write an a) or a b) next to the sentence.

1. You are quite right.
2. It's quite likely that he'll try to find a better job.
3. That's quite a good idea; we should explore it further.
4. What he said was quite wrong.
5. The answer to your question is quite simple.
6. It's quite possible that the course will be cancelled.
7. These days it's quite impossible to find a job if you have no experience.
8. I'm afraid I won't be able to help you. I'm quite busy now.
9. This is quite a complicated problem for students in their first year.
10. I was quite amazed to see how the University had changed in the last few years.

VIII. Choose the most appropriate adverb : fairly, quite, rather. The context should help you.

1. Today it's warm for March, 25 degrees.
2. He can speak Spanish well, almost like a native - he has lived there for a long time.
3. He speaks Chinese well, which , of course, is not good enough to read.
4. The lecture was boring. I fell asleep.
5. I was surprised to hear that our best student had not passed the final exam. It was a shock.
6. The exam was easy. I did it with plenty of time to spare.