

Advanced Descriptive Language KEY

Discuss

Discuss the sentences with your partner. Do you agree or disagree with them?

1. Over the course of his career Antony Hopkins has become very **highly regarded** in his field, and with good reason. (*very*) - *well-recognised/has a good reputation*
2. It's become **virtually impossible** to avoid using social media these days. - *virtually = almost*
3. English and American slang has been **widely adopted** by young people all over the world. - *widely - by lots of people*
4. I found the ending of Game of Thrones **utterly incomprehensible**. - *very*
5. Understanding the world of cryptocurrency is **fiendishly difficult**. - *very difficult*
6. The self-proclaimed misogynist and influencer Andrew Tate has been **ubiquitously condemned**, and rightly so. *ubiquitously - by many people/in many places*
7. I was **deeply moved** by the final scene of Titanic. - *very*
8. At my age, I find night clubs **awfully noisy**. - *very*
9. I'm **bitterly disappointed** with the way things have just gone back to normal after the pandemic. *very - negative connotation*
10. People should be able to **talk matter-of-factly** about their mental health, without the risk of being looked down on. ***in an unemotional and practical manner***.
11. The world is **woefully unprepared** for a similar global pandemic to COVID-19. - *very - negative connotation*
12. My predictions for 2023 are **overwhelmingly negative**. *almost completely*

Look at the sentences again:

- Which adverbs are another way of saying "very" or "really"?
- Which adverbs carry more meaning?
- Try and guess the meaning from the context.

Apply

Each of these new sentences can be completed with an adverb from the first exercise.

Try to complete the sentences with your partner. There may be more than one possibility in some instances.

- a. She **announced** her divorce to her family MATTER-OF-FACTLY.
- b. Completing all the Spanish tax forms yourself is FIENDISHLY **complicated**.
- c. I'm AWFULLY/DEEPLY **sorry**, but I'm not going to be able to make it to your dinner party.
- d. Good, affordable dentists are VIRTUALLY **non-existent** in the city these days.
- e. Now that effective vaccines are WIDELY/UBIQUITOUSLY **available**, the world can begin to move on from the pandemic.
- f. The film star wrote a DEEPLY **personal** apology on his Instagram page in an attempt to ease the media pressure he'd been under.
- g. The weather in January was BITTERLY/AWFULLY **cold** and she struggled to keep the house warm.
- h. His comments in the debate were UTTERLY **irrelevant** and you could tell he knew he was losing.
- i. The new method of collecting rubbish from the oceans has proved HIGHLY **effective**.
- j. Our preparations for the match were WOEFULLY **inadequate** and we knew we were going to lose.
- k. The steam engine is WIDELY **regarded as** one of the most important inventions in history.
- l. Feedback on the course from the students was OVERWHELMINGLY **positive**.

Test your partner on the combinations.

Expand

Each box contains more words that collocate with the adverbs.

Add an adverb to each box.

Adverb BITTERLY resentful hostile jealous	Adverb HIGHLY (un)likely controversial skilled competitive successful	Adverb DEEPLY ingrained disturbing troubling unpopular spiritual	Adverb OVERWHELMINGLY white male/female Catholic/Muslim/ Protestant
Adverb MATTER-OF-FACTLY reply state explain	Adverb WIDELY accepted respected believed acclaimed	Adverb FIENDISHLY addictive inventive cunning	Adverb VIRTUALLY identical unlimited unchanged unknown
Adverb UTTERLY brilliant ridiculous pointless incapable absurd	Adverb UBIQUITOUSLY present observable applicable	Adverb AWFULLY quiet tempting lonely suspicious	Adverb WOEFULLY inept inadequate ignorant uninformed understaffed

Practice

Choose 4 collocations from the boxes and write gapped sentences **omitting the adverb** for your classmates to complete.