

Advanced Descriptive Language - Student Handout

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

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

Test your partner on the combinations.

Expand

Each box contains more words that collocate with the adverbs.

Add an adverb to each box.

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|--|--|---|--|
| Adverb resentful hostile jealous | Adverb (un)likely controversial skilled competitive successful | Adverb ingrained disturbing troubling unpopular spiritual | Adverb white male/female Catholic/Muslim/ Protestant |
| Adverb reply state explain | Adverb accepted respected believed acclaimed | Adverb addictive inventive cunning | Adverb identical unlimited unchanged unknown |
| Adverb brilliant ridiculous pointless incapable absurd | Adverb present observable applicable | Adverb quiet tempting lonely suspicious | Adverb inept inadequate ignorant uninformed understaffed |

Practice

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