

ADVANCED COLLOCATIONS

Common Adverbs + Adjectives & Verbs

Practice Exercises

1. Match the halves

Match each adverb with the adjective/participle that forms the natural collocation.

1. utterly	A. accurate	7. reasonably	G. bizarre
2. highly	B. rewarded	8. flagrantly	H. important
3. vitally	C. ignored	9. tremendously	I. high
4. remarkably	D. placed	10. somewhat	J. ambivalent
5. discreetly	E. comfortable	11. amply	K. influential
6. profoundly	F. popular	12. consistently	L. affected

2. Complete the sentences

Use an adverb from the box. Each adverb is used once.

absolutely - dazzlingly - doubly - exceptionally - fairly - hugely - incredibly - particularly - properly - seemingly - slightly - truly

1. The new exhibition was _____ good; even the critics were impressed.
2. After a six-hour flight, the hotel room felt _____ comfortable.
3. Her explanation sounded _____ convincing, so the committee accepted it.
4. This detail is _____ relevant to the question we are discussing.
5. The decision looked _____ irrational until we learned what had happened behind the scenes.
6. The new tax arrangement could be _____ advantageous for small businesses.
7. Staff should be _____ compensated for working additional hours.
8. I felt _____ embarrassed when I realised I had called him by the wrong name.
9. The final result was _____ disappointing because we lost the contract and the client.
10. The view from the mountain was _____ splendid.
11. Her lecture was _____ stimulating and led to a long discussion afterwards.
12. Trust is _____ central to a healthy working relationship.

3. Quick check: choose the natural collocation

Circle the best option in each sentence.

1. The figures were (**remarkably / desperately**) accurate.
2. The instructions were (**flagrantly / properly**) ignored.
3. The issue is (**somewhat / dazzlingly**) problematic.
4. Her contribution was (**vitally / fairly**) important.
5. He felt (**utterly / discreetly**) miserable after the result.
6. The cameras were (**discreetly / hugely**) placed around the building.

4. Adverb + verb collocations

Choose the best adverb from the box to complete each sentence.

adversely - alarmingly - clearly - desperately - heavily - hugely - ideally - increasingly - profoundly - regularly - seriously - significantly

1. The shortage could _____ affect production next month.
2. House prices have _____ increased in several parts of the city.
3. We need to _____ rethink the way we recruit new staff.
4. Parents can _____ shape a child's attitude towards learning.
5. Social media now _____ influences how people discover new products.
6. The company is _____ trying to reduce its operating costs.
7. Poor weather can _____ influence the outcome of the event.
8. Some customers _____ over-order food when delivery is free.
9. She was _____ going through a difficult period, although she rarely spoke about it.
10. Businesses _____ act more cautiously when economic conditions are uncertain.
11. The new policy could _____ increase access to training.
12. The agreement should _____ be sanctioned by the board before implementation.

5. Choose the natural collocation

Circle the best option.

1. The evidence was (**remarkably / desperately / discreetly**) accurate.
2. The rule was (**flagrantly / reasonably / vitally**) ignored by several competitors.
3. The substance is (**extraordinarily / somewhat / favourably**) lethal in very small doses.
4. He is (**fairly / absolutely / alarmingly**) laid-back about deadlines.
5. The two products compared (**favourably / utterly / properly**) in independent tests.
6. She felt (**profoundly / dazzlingly / regularly**) affected by the documentary.
7. The rise in costs was (**absolutely / slightly / ideally**) staggering.
8. The situation is (**somewhat / amply / consistently**) problematic, but manageable.
9. He became (**utterly / particularly / favourably**) miserable after months of isolation.
10. The reward was (**amply / highly / seemingly**) deserved after years of work.

6. Collocation doctor

Each sentence contains an unnatural combination. Replace only the adverb.

1. The researcher produced a desperately accurate estimate.

Correction: _____

2. The new regulation is slightly central to the whole reform.

Correction: _____

3. The medicine can be fairly lethal if taken incorrectly.

Correction: _____

4. She was highly envious of her colleague's promotion.

Correction: _____

5. The staff were reasonably rewarded for the exceptional result.

Correction: _____

6. The company must hugely rethink its pricing strategy.

Correction: _____

7. The scandal vitally affected public confidence.

Correction: _____

8. Online platforms discreetly shape public debate.

Correction: _____

9. Demand has properly increased over the last six months.

Correction: _____

10. He was particularly suspicious of the unexplained payment.

Correction: _____

7. Rewrite using the collocation in brackets

1. The policy had a very deep influence on the organisation's culture. (**profoundly shape**)

2. The restaurant has remained popular year after year. (**consistently popular**)

3. The salary is appropriate for the level of responsibility. (**properly compensated**)

4. The speaker's argument was genuinely persuasive. (**truly convincing**)

5. Her feelings about the proposal are very mixed. (**profoundly ambivalent**)

6. The placement of the cameras is careful and unobtrusive. (**discreetly placed**)

7. The problem is rather difficult, although it can be solved. (**somewhat problematic**)

8. The figures are extremely high compared with last year. (**tremendously high**)

ANSWER KEY

1. Match the halves

1-G, 2-K, 3-H, 4-A, 5-D, 6-L, 7-E, 8-C, 9-I, 10-J, 11-B, 12-F

2. Complete the sentences

1 dazzlingly; 2 reasonably; 3 truly; 4 particularly; 5 seemingly; 6 hugely; 7 properly; 8 slightly; 9 doubly; 10 truly; 11 incredibly; 12 absolutely

3. Quick check

1 remarkably; 2 flagrantly; 3 somewhat; 4 vitally; 5 utterly; 6 discreetly

4. Adverb + verb collocations

1 adversely; 2 alarmingly; 3 seriously; 4 profoundly; 5 increasingly; 6 desperately; 7 heavily; 8 regularly; 9 clearly; 10 increasingly; 11 hugely; 12 ideally

5. Choose the natural collocation

1 remarkably; 2 flagrantly; 3 extraordinarily; 4 fairly; 5 favourably; 6 profoundly; 7 absolutely; 8 somewhat; 9 utterly; 10 amply

6. Collocation doctor

1 remarkably; 2 absolutely; 3 extraordinarily; 4 somewhat; 5 amply; 6 seriously; 7 adversely; 8 significantly/profoundly; 9 hugely/alarmingly; 10 highly

7. Rewrite - sample answers

1. The policy profoundly shaped the organisation's culture.
2. The restaurant has remained consistently popular.
3. Employees are properly compensated for this level of responsibility.
4. The speaker's argument was truly convincing.
5. She is profoundly ambivalent about the proposal.
6. The cameras are discreetly placed.
7. The problem is somewhat problematic, although it can be solved.
8. The figures are tremendously high compared with last year.