

MORE USEFUL B2 ADVERBS

Expand your vocabulary and make it part of your English

actually · clearly · completely · extremely · fairly · frequently · gradually · highly · mainly · naturally · roughly · surprisingly

They give us a nice mixture of degree, frequency, manner, approximation and sentence adverbs, and importantly, they create useful chunks such as **highly recommended, roughly half, mainly because, gradually improve, completely different.**

1. DISCOVER THE ADVERBS

Match each adverb to its meaning.

1. **actually**
2. **clearly**
3. **completely**
4. **extremely**
5. **fairly**
6. **frequently**
7. **gradually**
8. **highly**
9. **mainly**
10. **naturally**
11. **roughly**
12. **surprisingly**

- a. approximately
- b. very often
- c. little by little over time
- d. in reality / in fact
- e. entirely; 100%
- f. mostly; for the most part
- g. in an obvious or easy-to-understand way
- h. very; to a very high degree
- i. more than a little, but not extremely
- j. in a way that you would expect
- k. to a high degree, especially in certain combinations
- l. in a way that is unexpected

2. CHOOSE THE RIGHT ADVERB

Complete the sentences with an adverb from the box.

actually · clearly · completely · extremely · fairly · frequently · gradually · highly · mainly · naturally · roughly · surprisingly

1. I thought the course would be boring, but I _____ enjoyed it.
2. The two situations are _____ different.
3. This restaurant is _____ recommended by local people.
4. It took _____ three hours to get there.
5. I travel for work quite _____.
6. Her English has _____ improved over the last year.
7. The instructions are _____ written, so they're easy to follow.
8. The exam was _____ difficult, but I managed to pass.
9. I chose the job _____ because it offered flexible working hours.
10. _____, she was nervous before giving her first presentation.
11. The journey was _____ easy despite the bad weather.
12. _____, the cheapest option turned out to be the best one.

3. LEARN THE CHUNKS

Instead of learning adverbs alone, build natural combinations. Match the two halves.

1. highly
 2. completely
 3. roughly
 4. gradually
 5. mainly
 6. extremely
 7. fairly
 8. frequently
-
- a. because
 - b. recommended
 - c. improve
 - d. common

- e. different
- f. expensive
- g. half
- h. used

Then complete four sentences using combinations from the exercise:

I would highly recommend _____.

_____ **is completely different from** _____.

My _____ **has gradually improved.**

I _____ **fairly frequently.**

4. CHOOSE THE MORE NATURAL OPTION

Choose the adverb that fits the sentence best.

1. The new version is **completely / roughly** different from the old one.
2. I'd **highly / fairly** recommend visiting the city in spring.
3. It took **roughly / clearly** twenty minutes to get there.
4. My confidence has **gradually / extremely** improved.
5. The problem occurs **frequently / completely** in older devices.
6. I chose this option **mainly / surprisingly** because it was cheaper.
7. The instructions were **clearly / highly** explained.
8. The result was **surprisingly / frequently** good.

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL

Complete the sentences with information that is true for you. Then say your answers out loud.

1. I actually enjoy _____.
2. Something I find extremely difficult is _____.
3. I fairly frequently _____.
4. My _____ has gradually improved.
5. I would highly recommend _____.
6. I use _____ mainly for _____.
7. It takes me roughly _____.

8. _____ is completely different from what I expected.

9. Surprisingly, _____.

10. Naturally, I feel _____ when
_____.

SPEAKING CHALLENGE

Choose **three of your answers** and develop them into two or three sentences. Explain **why**, give an **example**, or tell a **short story**.

For example:

I would highly recommend visiting the mountains in autumn. The scenery is beautiful and it's usually much quieter than in summer. I went last October and absolutely loved it.