


46 Describing ability

Words such as “quite” and “very” are modifying adverbs. You can use them before other adverbs to give more information about how you do something.

 **New language** Modifying adverbs

Aa Vocabulary Skills and abilities

 **New skill** Saying how well you do things

46.1 KEY LANGUAGE MODIFYING ADVERBS

If you do something “quite” well, you’re OK but not excellent at it. If you do it “very” or “really” well, you’re excellent.

“Quite” modifies the main adverb, “well,” and goes before it.

I can ski **quite well**.



She can ski **{ very really } well**.



TIP

In US English, “quite” is used to add emphasis to an adverb.



46.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES MODIFYING ADVERBS



Ben can climb **really high**.



My dad dances **quite well**.



Jenny can swim **very well**.



I speak Spanish **quite well**.



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46.3 MATCH THE BEGINNING OF THE SENTENCES TO THE CORRECT ENDINGS



A cheetah can run

really well.

1



A tortoise walks

very noisily.

2



A chicken flies

really fast.

3



Pigs eat

quite badly.

4



Monkeys climb trees

very slowly.



46.4 KEY LANGUAGE MODIFYING ADVERBS WITH "GOOD AT"

You can also use modifying adverbs with the phrases "good at" and "bad at."

She can play golf **quite well**.

She's **quite good at** playing golf.

"Quite" modifies "good at."

Remember that "good at" and "bad at" are followed by a gerund.



You can play golf **{ very really } well**.

You're **{ very really } good at** playing golf.

"Very / really" goes before "good at."



46.5 READ THE REPORT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

How good is Juan at learning vocabulary?

Quite good ☒ Really good ☐

1 How good is he at speaking English?

Quite good ☐ Really good ☐

2 How good is Juan at reading?

Quite good ☐ Really good ☐

3 How good is he at listening to English?

Quite good ☐ Really good ☐

4 How good is Juan at writing English?

Quite good ☐ Really good ☐

English report: Juan Ramirez

Writing

99%

Excellent.

Vocabulary

65%

Ok, but you need to study more.

Speaking

95%

Well done.

Listening

66%

Better. Try watching more English movies to improve.

Reading

63%

Ok. You need to read more English texts to improve.

46 CHECKLIST



Modifying adverbs ☐



Skills and abilities ☐



Saying how well you do things ☐