




# GRADABLE AND UNGRADABLE ADJECTIVES EXPLANATION

## GRADABLE AND UNGRADABLE ADJECTIVES:

### USE:

GRADABLE ADJECTIVES CAN BE USED WITH ADVERBS SUCH AS **VERY** OR **EXTREMELY** TO SAY THAT A THING OR PERSON HAS MORE OR LESS OF A PARTICULAR QUALITY.

UNGRADABLE ADJECTIVES THEMSELVES IMPLY 'TO A LARGE DEGREE' AND ARE SELDOM USED WITH THESE ADVERBS. INSTEAD, WE CAN USE ADVERBS SUCH AS **ABSOLUTELY** OR **TOTALLY**.

<b>Adverbs</b> extremely, deeply, fairly, hugely, immensely, pretty (informal), rather, really, reasonably, slightly, very	+	<b>Gradable Adjectives</b> angry, big, busy, comfortable, common, happy, important, quiet, rich, strong, young	
<b>Adverbs</b> absolutely, completely, entirely, pretty, really, simply, totally, utterly	+	<b>Ungradable Adjectives</b> amazed, awful, dreadful, furious, huge, impossible, invaluable, terrible, wonderful, useless	

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- Our teacher gave us a *completely* **impossible** problem to solve.
- She was *extremely* **rich**.

Notice that not all the adverbs given can go with all the adjectives given. For example, we wouldn't usually say 'completely essential'. **Really** and **pretty** can be used with both gradable and ungradable adjectives.