

A

Good/well

Good is an *adjective*. The *adverb* is **well**:

- Your English is **good**. *but* You **speak** English **well**.
- Susan is a **good** pianist. *but* Susan **plays** the piano **well**.

We use **well** (*not good*) with *past participles* (**dressed/known** etc.):

- Gary's father is a **well-known** writer.

But **well** is also an adjective with the meaning 'in good health':

- 'How are you today?' 'I'm very **well**, thanks.'

B

Fast/hard/late

These words are both adjectives and adverbs:

- | <i>adjective</i> | <i>adverb</i> |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Darren is a very fast runner. | Darren can run very fast . |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kate is a hard worker. | Kate works hard . (<i>not works hardly</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I was late . | I got up late this morning. |

Lately = recently:

- Have you seen Tom **lately**?

C

Hardly

Hardly = very little, almost not. Study these examples:

- Sarah wasn't very friendly at the party. She **hardly** spoke to me.
(= she spoke to me very little, almost not at all)
- We've only met once or twice. We **hardly** know each other.

Hard and **hardly** are different. Compare:

- He tried **hard** to find a job, but he had no luck. (= he tried a lot, with a lot of effort)
- I'm not surprised he didn't find a job. He **hardly** tried. (= he tried very little)

I **can hardly** do something = it's very difficult for me, almost impossible:

- Your writing is terrible. I **can hardly** read it. (= it is almost impossible to read it)
- My leg was hurting. I **could hardly** walk.

D

You can use **hardly** + **any/anybody/anyone/anything/anywhere**:

- A: How much money have we got?
B: **Hardly any**. (= very little, almost none)
- These two cameras are very similar. There's **hardly any** difference between them.
- The exam results were very bad. **Hardly anybody** in our class passed. (= very few students passed)

Note that you can say:

- She said **hardly anything**. *or* She **hardly** said **anything**.
- We've got **hardly any** money. *or* We've **hardly** got **any** money.

Hardly ever = almost never:

- I'm nearly always at home in the evenings. I **hardly ever** go out.

Hardly also means 'certainly not'. For example:

- It's **hardly surprising** that you're tired. You haven't slept for three days.
(= it's certainly not surprising)
- The situation is serious, but it's **hardly a crisis**. (= it's certainly not a crisis)



Exercises

101.1 Put in good or well.

- 1 I play tennis but I'm not very good.
- 2 Your exam results were very
- 3 You did in your exams.
- 4 The weather was while we were away.
- 5 I didn't sleep last night.
- 6 Lucy speaks German She's at languages.
- 7 Our new business isn't doing very at the moment.
- 8 I like your hat. It looks on you.
- 9 I've met her a few times, but I don't know her

101.2 Complete these sentences using well + the following words:

~~behaved~~ dressed informed kept known paid written

- 1 The children were very good. They were well-behaved.
- 2 I'm surprised you haven't heard of her. She is quite
- 3 Our neighbours' garden is neat and tidy. It is very
- 4 I enjoyed the book you lent me. It's a great story and it's very
- 5 Tanya knows a lot about many things. She is very
- 6 Mark's clothes are always smart. He is always
- 7 Jane has a lot of responsibility in her job, but she isn't very

101.3 Are the underlined words right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 I'm tired because I've been working hard. OK
- 2 I tried hard to remember her name, but I couldn't.
- 3 This coat is practically unused. I've hardly worn it.
- 4 Laura is a good tennis player. She hits the ball hardly.
- 5 Don't walk so fast! I can't keep up with you.
- 6 I had plenty of time, so I was walking slow.

101.4 Complete the sentences. Use hardly + the following verbs (in the correct form):

change hear ~~know~~ recognise say sleep speak

- 1 Scott and Tracy have only met once before. They hardly know each other.
- 2 You're speaking very quietly. I can you.
- 3 I'm very tired this morning. I last night.
- 4 We were so shocked when we heard the news, we could
- 5 Kate was very quiet this evening. She a word.
- 6 You look the same now as you looked 15 years ago. You've
- 7 I met David a few days ago. I hadn't seen him for a long time and he looks very different now. I him.

101.5 Complete these sentences with hardly + any/anybody/anything/anywhere/ever.

- 1 I'll have to go shopping. There's hardly anything to eat.
- 2 It was a very warm day and there was wind.
- 3 'Do you know much about computers?' 'No,
- 4 The hotel was almost empty. There was staying there.
- 5 I listen to the radio a lot, but I watch television.
- 6 Our new boss is not very popular. likes her.
- 7 It was very crowded in the room. There was to sit.
- 8 We used to be good friends, but we see each other now.
- 9 It was nice driving this morning. There was traffic.
- 10 I hate this town. There's to do and to go.