

Unit 97

Adjectives and adverbs (2)

(good/well, fast/hard/late, hardly)

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

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

We often use **well** with *past participles* (**dressed/known** etc.):

well-dressed (not 'good dressed') **well-known** **well-educated**

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

- 'How are you today?' 'I'm very **well**, thanks.' (not 'I'm very good')

b Fast/hard/late These words are both adjectives and adverbs:

<i>adjective</i> Jack is a very fast runner.	<i>adverb</i> Jack can run very fast .
Ann is a hard worker.	Ann works hard . (not 'works hardly')
The train was late .	I got up late this morning.

The adverb **lately** = recently:

- Have you seen Tom **lately**?

c Hardly has a completely different meaning from **hard**:

Hardly = almost not. Study these examples:

- George asked Hilda to marry him. She was surprised because they had only known each other for two days. She said: 'We can't get married now! We **hardly** know each other.' (= we know each other very little; we almost don't know each other)
- Why was Tom so unfriendly at the party last night? He **hardly** spoke to me. (= he spoke to me very little)

We often use **hardly** with **can/could**.

- You writing is terrible. I **can hardly** read it. (= I can read it but only with a lot of difficulty)
- My leg was hurting me. I **could hardly** walk.

We also use **hardly** with **any/anyone/anything/anywhere**:

- 'How much money have you got?' '**Hardly any**.' (= almost none, very little)
- I'll have to go shopping. We've got **hardly any** food. (= almost no food, very little food)
- The examination results were very bad. **Hardly anyone** passed. (= almost no-one passed, very few people passed)
- She ate **hardly anything** because she didn't feel hungry. (= she ate almost nothing, she ate very little)

Note that you can say:

- She ate **hardly anything**. or She **hardly** ate **anything**.
- We've got **hardly any** food. or We've **hardly** got **any** food.

Hardly ever = almost never:

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

