

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

