Intensifiers Worksheet: Utterly, Highly, Deeply, Bitterly

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Remember

Form	Example
very / extremely / incredibly + gradable adjectives	extremely tired · incredibly difficult
absolutely / completely / utterly + extreme adjectives	absolutely exhausted · utterly ridiculous
Fixed collocations: highly, deeply, bitterly, painfully, fully	highly unlikely · deeply moved · bitterly disappointed
really and so work with both kinds	really cold · really freezing

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
The film was very fantastic.	The film was absolutely fantastic.
I'm absolutely tired.	I'm extremely tired. / I'm absolutely exhausted.
It's highly expensive.	It's extremely / incredibly expensive.

1. Complete

Complete with the intensifiers in the box: highly · deeply · bitterly · utterly · fully · painfully · absolutely · extremely.

1. It's _____ unlikely that he will apologise.
2. I was _____ moved by her speech.
3. The fans were _____ disappointed with the result.
4. After the marathon, I was _____ exhausted.
5. We are _____ aware of the problem.
6. The silence was _____ obvious after his joke.
7. The view from the top is _____ stunning.
8. The exam was _____ difficult.

2. Choose

Circle the correct option.

1. The hotel was (very / absolutely) enormous.
2. I'm (highly / deeply) sorry for your loss.
3. It's (completely / very) impossible to finish today.
4. She's (highly / bitterly) qualified for the job.
5. The water was (absolutely / very) freezing.
6. He was (utterly / highly) convinced he was right.
7. It was a (bitterly / deeply) cold morning.
8. The instructions were (perfectly / highly) clear.

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. The food was very delicious.

2. It's absolutely cold outside.

3. I'm highly disappointed.

4. She was absolutely surprised.

5. The task is utterly easy.

6. It's deeply likely to rain.

Writing

Write a review of an unforgettable trip or event (6–7 sentences) without using very. Use at least six intensifier collocations.

Speaking

- Describe a time you were bitterly disappointed.
- What is something that is highly unlikely to happen this year?
- Describe a place that is absolutely stunning.
- Tell me about a moment you were deeply moved by something.

Answer key

1. Complete: 1 highly · 2 deeply · 3 bitterly · 4 utterly / absolutely · 5 fully · 6 painfully · 7 absolutely · 8 extremely

2. Choose: 1 absolutely · 2 deeply · 3 completely · 4 highly · 5 absolutely · 6 utterly · 7 bitterly · 8 perfectly

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 The food was absolutely delicious. · 2 It's very / extremely cold outside. / It's absolutely freezing. · 3 I'm bitterly / deeply disappointed. · 4 She was very surprised. / She was absolutely amazed. · 5 The task is very / extremely easy. · 6 It's highly likely to rain.

Writing, model answer: Our trip to Iceland was absolutely unforgettable. The landscapes were utterly breathtaking, and on some mornings it was bitterly cold. I was deeply moved by the silence of the glaciers. Our guide was highly experienced and extremely patient with us. We were bitterly disappointed when the clouds hid the northern lights. But on the last night the sky was perfectly clear, and it was absolutely magical.