

INTENSIFIERS¹

These words change adjectives. They express a high or low point along a scale. You use these words to describe the **EXTENT OR AMOUNT OF SOMETHING**. Something can be not just *good* but:

- **REALLY** *good = opinion = It was a REALLY good story.*
- **VERY** *good = formal, to a high degree = It was a VERY good story .*
- **SO** *good = very = The story was SO good.*
- **SUCH A** *good = very = It was SUCH A good story.*
- **PRETTY** *good = somewhat or so-so = The story was PRETTY good.*

You can also use words (adverbs) **AMAZINGLY, REMARKABLY, EXCEPTIONALLY**, *etc.* = *The story was EXCEPTIONALLY good.*

REALLY = often used for an opinion, rather than a fact:

*You seem REALLY tired.
I REALLY love chocolate.*

VERY = more commonly used in formal and academic English:

*That's a VERY nice dress.
I'm VERY proud of you.*

SO = used to emphasise the quality that the person is describing.

*It's SO hot!
He's SO funny!*

SUCH = used before an adjective and noun. A / an, are sometimes necessary and they go after 'such', not before:

*They are SUCH nice people.
That's SUCH a cute dog!*

PRETTY = 'quite' or 'rather':

*It's PRETTY good chocolate.
He's PRETTY smart.*

With strong adjectives such as words like *enormous or huge, tiny or minute, etc.*, we often use intensifiers like:

ABSOLUTELY TOTALLY REALLY COMPLETELY EXCEPTIONALLY PARTICULARLY UTTERLY QUITE

*The film was ABSOLUTELY awful.
He was an EXCEPTIONALLY brilliant child.*

Take care with intensifiers that you do not over use them as they can lose their meaning.

¹ See also So, Such, Too, Enough – Indicate Degree, Vocabulary