

adjectives that you change, which can be very useful if you do not yet have a large vocabulary. Put these qualifiers in front of the verb or adjective that you want to describe.

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Some very common qualifiers are in the list below:

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To lessen the impact of something:

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May/Might/Maybe/May be/Might/Could/Kind of/Sort of/Somewhat/Slightly

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Examples:

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I might be going to Italy in June with my cousins, but I'm not sure yet.

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The rain could fall, but the sun is out so it is hard to predict.

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Katie kind of wants to go to Disneyland, but she is afraid to ask her parents to take her.

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To say a smaller number

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Few/Not many/A small number/A minority/Some

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Examples:

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A minority of voters approve of the new legislation that is being considered.

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Few students enjoy learning from reading books, as they would prefer to try different things and learn by experimentation.

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I would like some peas, please.

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To say that something does NOT happen more often than it does, or is less common than you expect

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Hardly/Hardly ever/Rarely/Infrequently/Seldom/Sporadically/Scarcely/For a short time

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Examples:

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This is scarcely the time to be doubting our plans, Harry.

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???/???/???/??/???/???

Examples:

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“Traveling in the different countries in Asia is basically the same,” said John, who had never been to any of the countries in Asia.

????????????????????“????????????????????”

Essentially, the point of the festival is to celebrate the great things that have happened in the past year.

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Virtually every tournament only lets boys compete, probably because everyone is afraid to be beaten by a girl.

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Qualifiers are not limited to the above list, and can be long phrases as well as single words.

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What are intensifiers?

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Intensifiers are another special category of modifiers. They have the opposite effect of qualifiers, and strengthen (rather than weaken) the meaning of the words and phrases that they modify.

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They are either positive (like very) or negative (like definitely not). Some examples of these two categories of intensifiers are below:

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Why... ever...?

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e. Why did I ever agree to help you move your furniture? To indicate regret or a problem.

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Dangerously/Seriously/Ever again/Bitterly (goes with specific words, only, including cold, unhappy, disappointed, sad,)

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Examples:

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Luke never wants to see Philip ever again.

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My son does not want to attend this college at all!

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You are getting dangerously close to the edge of my patience.

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To say a larger number

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Many/Most/Some/Lots of/Numerous/Countless/A majority/Mostly/Various

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Examples:

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Countless efforts have been made to change the system, but nothing has worked.

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A majority of the benches in this park were donated by people from this neighborhood.

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Herbert was mostly just curious why you designed your office this way.

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To say that something happens more often than not, or is more common than you expect

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Often/Frequently/Commonly/For a long time/Usually/Sometimes/Repeatedly

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Examples:

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For a long time, I thought that all rabbits just ate carrots all the time.

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She frequently stops by our shop to buy a jar of pickles.

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I have told you repeatedly not to bother me when I am working, have I not?

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When and how should you use modifiers, qualifiers, and intensifiers?

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For the most part, using these words and phrases can paint a more colorful and vibrant picture of what you are trying to say. They are useful for providing more detail and showing the full picture.

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Modifiers can be used anywhere in a sentence and can take many different forms. Qualifiers and intensifiers are words or short phrases that often go in front of the word or phrase they modify. However, using too many can clutter your writing or speech. One good technique to decrease the number of words you use and the complexity of your sentences is to review your writing. Can your modifiers, qualifiers, and intensifiers be replaced by words that tell your meaning even better? For example, you can use difficult or challenging instead of very hard, or a breeze and simply instead of very easy. Using this higher level vocabulary improves your writing by clarifying what you mean, which helps your audience understand you better.

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Examples:

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Very important = crucial, central, essential

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Very unimportant = trivial, irrelevant

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Very cold = chilly or freezing

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Very hot = sweltering

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Very confusing = puzzling, perplexing

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Very slow = sluggish

???=????

Very fast = speedy, rapid, swift

???=???

Very large = enormous, giant, huge

???=???

Very small = nonexistent, tiny

???=?????????

