

1. Fairly/Rather

Fairly is used with favourable adjectives and adverbs while rather is used before unfavourable adjectives and adverbs.

Examples:

- (a) Ram is fairly clever, but Ramesh is rather foolish.
- (b) Ram walks fairly fast, but Anil walks rather slowly.

Rather when used before alike, like, similar, different etc. and before comparatives, means a little or 'slightly'.

Examples:

- (a) These cats are rather like cubs in some ways.
- (b) The weather was rather hot than we had expected.

2. Hardly/Scarcely/Barely

The adverbs; **hardly**, **scarcely** and **barely** are almost negative (almost not) in meaning. 'Hardly' is usually used with 'any', 'ever', 'at all', or the verb 'can'.

Examples:

- (a) She has hardly any money. (very little money)
 - (b) We hardly ever go out. (We very seldom go out.)
- One should not be confused with adverbs 'hard' and 'hardly':

Examples:

- (a) He looked hard at it. (He stared at it.)
- (b) She hardly looked at me. (She gave me only a brief glance or didn't look.)

Scarcely means 'almost not' and can replace 'hardly' as used above.

But scarcely is usually used to mean not quite:

Example: There were scarcely ten people in the meeting. (probably fewer)

Barely means 'not more than'/'only just'.

Examples:

- (a) His voice was barely audible. (it was only just audible)
- (b) There were barely ten people in the meeting. (only just ten)

3. Yet/Still

Both are adverbs of time. **Yet** means up to the time of speaking. It is usually used with the negative or interrogative.

Still emphasizes that the action continues. It is mainly used with the affirmative or interrogative. It can also be used with the negative to emphasize the continuance of an action.

Examples:

- (a) He hasn't completed (his work) yet.
- (b) He hasn't yet applied for the licence I told him about.
- (c) He is still in bed.
- (d) Has she come? Not yet.
- (e) The jeep hasn't arrived yet.

Yet is normally placed after verb or after verb + object. the object consists of a large number of words yet can be placed before the verb also.

Example: Still is placed after the verb 'be' but before other verbs.

4. Since/Ever since

Since and **Ever since** are used with perfect tenses. **Since** can be placed after the auxiliary or in end position after a negative or interrogative verb: **Ever since** (adverb) is usually placed in end position.

Phrases and clauses with since and ever since are usually in end position though front position is also possible:

Examples:

- (a) I first met her three years ago and have remembered her face ever since.
- (b) He's been in bed since his accident.

5. Somehow/Anyhow

Somehow (means in some way or other) can be placed in the front position or after a verb without object or after the



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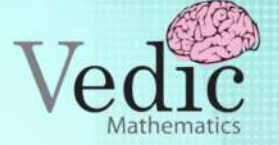
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object.

Examples:

- (a) Somehow they managed.
- (b) I wasn't qualified to apply for this job really but I got it anyhow.

Anyhow is an adverb of manner. It is often used to mean in any case/ anyway.

6. Too

Too is different from 'very'. Too means 'excess' (more than enough' or 'more than necessary' or more than is wanted)

Example: He is too weak to walk.

- (i) We can use an infinitive structure after too + adjective/ adverb/determiner.

Example: She is too old to work.

- (ii) If the infinitive has its own subject, this is introduced by for.

Example: It's too late for the shops to be opened.

- (iii) The subject of a sentence with too can also be the object of the following infinitive. Object pronouns are not normally used after the infinitive in such cases.

Example:

(a) The water is too hot to drink. **(Correct)**

The water is too hot to drink it. **(Incorrect)**

However, object pronouns are possible in this structures with for.

Example: The water is too hot for us to drink (it).

The two possible meanings of sentences like.

Examples:

- (a) He's too stupid to teach (= He's too stupid to be a teacher.)
- (b) He's too stupid for anyone to teach (he can't be taught.)
- (iv) Too is not normally used before adjective + noun.

Example: I put down the bag because it was too heavy. **(Correct)**

I put down the too heavy bag. **(Incorrect)**

In a rather formal style, 'too' can be used before adjective + a/an + noun.

Examples:

- (a) It's too cold a day to go out.
- (b) He was too clever a businessman to accept the offer initially. (It means: As a businessman he was too clever to accept the offer initially.)

7. Too/Too much

Before adjectives without nouns and before adverbs we use too, not too much.

Examples:

- (a) You're too kind to me. **(Correct)**
- You're too much kind to me. **(Incorrect)**
- (b) I arrived too early. **(Correct)**
- I arrived too much early. **(Incorrect)**

8. Much/Very

Generally, participles are modified by much and adjectives by very. Certain participles which have largely lost their verbal force and are felt to be adjectival, however, take very:

Examples:

- (a) The law has been much abused. **(Participle)**
- (b) Her dress was much admired. **(Participle)**
- (c) It is a very good book. **(Adjective)**
- (d) This is a very old building. **(Adjective)**
- (e) She is a very clever girl. **(Adjective)**

Conversely, participles used before a noun to make a compound adjective with a modifying adverb, take much : a much abused privilege, a much travelled person, a much discussed question.

9. Seldom

Seldom is an adverb. We may say I seldom go to London, but not my visits to London are seldom, for here we are treating the word as a predicative adjective. It can be used after a verb in this way (and



then as an adverb) only in the following types of construction.

(i) After It is: After It is (was), and followed by a that clause in apposition to the anticipatory pronoun it.

Example: It is seldom that we get such an opportunity as this.

(ii) In a relative clause In a relative clause that refers back to the whole notion expressed in a preceding clause of time.

Examples:

- (a) When she lost her temper, which was seldom.
(b) Whenever I take a day off from work, which is seldom,

(iii) In a parenthetical clause In a parenthetical clause referring back to the entire notion expressed in a preceding adverb clause of time.

Example: Whenever I take a day off from work, which is seldom,

10. Enough

1. Adjective/ adverb + enough When enough modifies an adjective or adverb, it normally comes after the adjective/adverb.

Examples:

- (a) Is that music loud enough?
(b) These shoes are not big enough.

Is it warm enough for you? (NOT..... enough warm

Examples:

- (a) You're not driving fast enough.
(b) We haven't got a big enough house.

2. Position with adjective + noun Enough follows an adjective which it modifies. But when enough modifies an adjective and noun together, it comes before the adjective.

Compare: We haven't got big enough nails. (=We need bigger nails-enough modifies big.)

enough + infinitive The adverb enough is often followed by an infinitive:

Examples:

- (a) She didn't run fast enough to win.
(b) She's old enough to do what she wants. Infinitives can be introduced by for noun/ pronoun. Object forms of pronouns are used.

Examples:

- (a) It's late enough for the staff to stop work. (b) There was just enough light for us to see what we were doing.

Practice Questions

Directions (Q. Nos. 1 - 20) Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence, the number of the part is the answer. If there is no error, the answer is (5).

- He has been trying (1)/ to persuade her for several months (2)/ but he has (3)/ not still succeeded. (4)/ No error (5)
- Before the game he felt surely (1)/ of winning. (2)/ but within five minutes (3)/ he realised that he was wrong. (4)/ No error (5)
- The amount which the company (1)/ paid to the dependents of (2)/ the deceased was (3)/ fairly unjustified. (4)/ No error (5)
- Although he only earns (1)/ sixteen hundred rupees per month (2)/ yet he manages his (3)/ family well. (4)/ No error (5)
- I liked that opportune moment (1)/ where the workers (2)/ proved themselves (3)/ and came out victorious. (4)/ No error (5)
- What else (1)/ did you (2)/ go besides (3)/ the bank? (4)/ No error (5)



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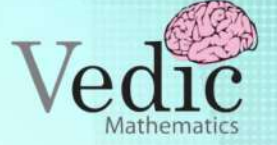
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7. I hardly ever (1)/ see him (2)/ because in my opinion (3)/he is not a reliable man. (4)/ No error (5)

8. He is a linguist (1)/ and tries always to (2) /make his students (3)/ pronounce the words correctly. (4)/ No error (5)

9. The rate of interest (1)/offered by banks to (2)/ customers who had savings bank accounts (3)/ was decided by RBI early. (4)/No error (5)

10. Farmers can easy (1)/ get loans under (2)/ the Kisan Credit Card Scheme which (3)/was launched by RBI. (4)/ No error (5)

11. Who can believe (1)/ that she was not (2)/ hardly hit (3)/ by the death of her son. (4)/ No error (5)

12. Hardly she likes (1)/ to hear my name (2)/ after the dispute which occurred (3)/ between us last year. (4)/ No error (5)

13. Only by discussing with (1)/ the officer concerned (2)/ they found out (3)/ the person behind the fraud. (4)/ No error (5)

14. The house is very good (1)/ but too much small (2)/ to accommodate (3)/ the full family. (4)/ No error (5)

15. He does not (1)/ know to make (2) /friends so he is leading (3)/ a lonely life. (4)/ No error (5)

16. Every member of the family (1)/ is addicted (2) /to drinking (3) /and so Asha is. (4)/ No error (5)

17. He was very tired (1)/ of work so he said (2)/ that he would (3)/ not accompany us. (4)/ No error (5)

18. Shakshi was (1) /exorbitantly paid (2)/ for how skilful she (3)/ welcomed the visitors. (4)/ No error (5)

19. She is almost quite competent (1)/ for the post of Marketing Executive (2)/ so if given a chance (3)/ she can show the results. (4)/ No error (5)

20. The student requested (1)/ the principal (2)/ to be enough kind (3)/ to grant him seven days leave. (4)/ No error (5)

