

Fairly, quite, rather and pretty

Fairly, rather, quite and pretty are all degree modifiers. They are used to express the degree to which a certain quality is present. Fairly does not show a high degree of something, rather and quite do. Test your understanding of these degree modifiers with this grammar exercise. Each question is followed by four suggested answers. Choose the most appropriate one.

1. 'How was the movie?' '.....
good. Not the best one I have seen this year.'

Fairly

Quite

Rather

2. I think we are going to lose.

fairly

quite

rather

3. We are having a bit of
trouble with the kids just now.

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Fairly

Rather

Quite

4. You are the most interesting woman I have ever known.

fairly

quite

rather

5. She didn't run fast enough for a record.

quite

fairly

rather

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6. We were hoping you could stay to supper.

fairly

quite

rather

7. I speak French well – enough for everyday purposes.

fairly

quite

rather

Answers

1. 'How was the movie?' 'Fairly good. Not the best one I have seen this year.'
2. I rather think we are going to lose.
3. We are having quite a bit of trouble with the kids just now.

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4. You are quite the most interesting woman I have ever known.
5. She didn't run quite fast enough for a record.
6. We were rather hoping you could stay to supper.
7. I speak French fairly well – enough for everyday purposes.