34 Adverbs of degree

1 Form

	WEAKER	STRONGER
with verbs	*a bit a little*	*a lot (very) much*
with adjectives/adverbs	*quite fairly*	*very really extremely*
with comparative adjectives	*a bit a little*	*much a lot*

2 With verbs

We use (*very*) *much* and *a lot* to make verbs stronger:
*She **loves** her children **very much**.*
*Kristin **complains a lot**.* (= She often complains.)

We use *a little* and *a bit* to make verbs weaker:
*I can **play** the piano **a little**.* (not very well)
*It **annoys** me **a bit**.* (= It annoys me but not a lot.)

⚠ We put these adverbs after the verb and object.
✗ ~~*I like very much skiing.*~~ ✓ *I like skiing **very much**.*

3 With adjectives/adverbs

We use *really*, *very* and *extremely* to make adjectives and adverbs stronger:
*Those shoes are **really beautiful**.*
*Diego Maradona was a **very good** footballer.*
*My new car goes **really fast**.*
*She worked **extremely hard** before her exams.*

We can use *fairly* or *quite* to make them weaker:
*That meal was **quite expensive**.*
*My father drives **quite slowly**.*
*I speak Italian **fairly well**.*

4 With comparative adjectives

To describe a big difference between things we use *much* or *a lot*:
*Those shoes are **a lot more expensive** than most shoes.*
*Canada is **much larger** than England.*

To describe a small difference between things we use *a little* or *a bit*:
*Charlotte is **a little taller** than Susie.*
*DVDs are **a bit more expensive** than CDs.*