

Base adjectives versus strong adjectives

Base adjectives

Base adjectives are normal adjectives that don't have the idea of 'very'

Strong adjectives

Strong adjectives, however, are extreme adjectives that have the idea of 'very'

Examples

- gorgeous
= *very* beautiful
- huge = *very* big

Base Adjectives	Strong Adjectives
beautiful	gorgeous
ugly	awful
dirty	filthy
good	superb, great, fantastic
bad	terrible
happy	thrilled
angry	furious
hungry	starving
tired	exhausted
funny	hilarious
big	huge, enormous
small	tiny
fat	obese
scared	terrified
cold	freezing
hot	boiling

The use of very, absolutely and really with base and strong adjectives

Very, absolutely and really are used differently according whether the adjective is a base or a strong one:

	very	absolutely	really
Base adjectives	✓	✗	✓
Strong adjectives	✗	✓	✓

Examples:

- He was very happy; he was absolutely thrilled.
- He was really happy/thrilled.