

Intensifiers: Very Versus Too

USE: Students of English often confuse the use of **VERY** and **TOO**.

Looking at the chart from the previous exercise, we see that **VERY** is used for a large degree. It tells us there is a lot of something. **TOO** is used when there is a lot of something and that amount or degree is more than we want. It is used to indicate that something is excessive.

It is very hot. (The temperature is high. This is neither a good nor bad situation.)

It is too hot. (The temperature is higher than I want or like. This is a bad situation.)

TOO can be further modified with other intensifiers, to make it stronger or weaker. But regardless, **TOO** always indicates that we have more than we want or need.

It is way too hot! (The temperature is high and I really don't like it.)

It is a bit too hot. (The temperature is high. I don't like it but it is not so bad.)

Select either **TOO** or **VERY** to fill in the blanks.

1. The book is _____ interesting. You should read it.
2. We are going to offer you the job. You are _____ qualified.
3. I don't want to date him. He is _____ tall!
4. This food is _____ good. You should try it.
5. We were _____ late. She had already left.
6. We were _____ late. But it was okay, the show had not started.
7. This computer is _____ fast. I think I will buy it.
8. Sports cars are _____ expensive. I would never buy one.
9. I can't reach the top shelf in the cupboard. I am _____ short.
10. This meeting is _____ important. Make sure you are there.