

## Intensifiers: With *Not*

**USE:** When you put **NOT** in front of an intensifier, it makes the meaning the opposite. Only a few intensifiers can be used with **NOT**.

All of the sentences below mean that the temperature is moderate, even though the sentences all have the word “hot” in them.

*It is **not too** hot.*

*It is **not very** hot.*

*It is **not so** hot.*

*It is **not really** hot.*

*It is **not a bit** hot.*

You can not use **NOT** with these intensifiers.

*extremely      fairly*

We use **NOT** to make a statement less strong, more indirect and more polite.

*The book is boring. (too strong)      The book is **not too** interesting. (less strong)*

*She is short. (impolite)      She is **not too** tall. (more polite)*

*This food is horrible. (direct)      This food is **not too** good. (indirect)*

*Rewrite the sentences below using NOT so that the meaning is the same but the sentence less strong, more indirect or more polite.*

1. Your new hair style is ugly. \_\_\_\_\_
2. I don't have any work to do. \_\_\_\_\_
3. She hates you. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Your new shirt is strange. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The dog is stupid. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The car is expensive. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The movie is awful. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Studying grammar is difficult. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Spinach is disgusting. \_\_\_\_\_
10. The winter in Canada is cold. \_\_\_\_\_