

Expand your range of vocabulary: adjectives

Express tactful criticism without hurting anybody's feelings

To agree with a critical statement, it is very common to use a synonym or an opposite adjective

- > *The room's **tiny**.*
- > *Yes, it's very **small**, isn't it?*
- > *That's right; it isn't very **big**.*

When involved in a critical remark, the British often prefer other words other than 'very', such as 'rather...' or 'a bit (too)...'

The best thing to do is use:

... not very ...	+	a positive adjective
... rather / a bit (too) ...	+	adjectives with a negative meaning

- > *The garden's **not very large**.*
- > *It's **rather small** actually.*
- > *Yeah, it's **a bit too small**.*
- > *Yeah, it's **kind of tiny**, isn't it?*

Look at the ten adjectives below and think of synonyms

tiny	unfriendly
freezing	tedious
filthy	idiotic
bland	disgusting
hideous	thoughtless

Now match the adjectives above with their opposites below

sensible	warm
considerate	nice
interesting	clean
helpful	attractive
big	tasty

Work in pairs:

Exchange remarks using these prompts. Start with an adjective and respond with a synonym or an opposite

- A meal
- A hotel room
- The weather
- A suggestion
- A film / TV programme
- A friend / relative
- A car
- A building
- A shop-assistant
- ...