Number, quantity, degree and intensity

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each expression with its meaning.

1 a considerable number	____	a completely
2 a small proportion	____	b a little; by a small degree
3 the vast majority	____	c a large but unspecified count
4 approximately	____	d more than moderately but not extremely
5 slightly	____	e a limited share of a whole
6 fairly	____	f almost all members of a group
7 highly	____	g very; to a high degree
8 entirely	____	h close to a number but not exactly

2 Complete the quantity and degree collocations.

amount | **considerable** | **degree** | **majority** | **number** | **proportion** | **range** | **significantly**

1 a large _____ of people

2 a substantial _____ of money

3 a wide _____ of options

4 to a certain _____

5 the overwhelming _____

6 a small _____ of cases

7 a _____ increase

8 differ _____

3 Correct one mistake in each sentence.

1 A large amount of students applied. _____

2 The price increased very slightly much. _____

3 Almost the majority agreed. _____

4 There was fewer traffic than usual. _____

5 The two results were entirely different slightly. _____

6 A great number of information was collected. _____

7 The task was enough difficult for beginners. _____

8 Approximately of 60 people attended. _____

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4 Complete the survey report with words from the box.

approximately | considerable | entirely | highly | majority | proportion | range | slightly

The survey included **1** _____ 300 participants from a wide **2** _____ of age groups. The vast **3** _____ supported the proposal. A small **4** _____ disagreed, while a **5** _____ number were undecided. Younger participants were **6** _____ more supportive. Satisfaction was **7** _____ dependent on cost, although the pattern was not **8** _____ consistent.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Reporting quantities carefully

Exact numbers are useful, but they are not always available or necessary. Writers may use approximately when a figure has been rounded, and expressions such as a minority or the vast majority when the overall pattern matters more than the precise count. Degree adverbs also need care: slightly indicates a small difference, whereas significantly may describe a large or statistically meaningful one.

1 When are exact numbers useful? _____

2 Why might a writer use approximately? _____

3 What can a minority describe? _____

4 When may the overall pattern matter more? _____

5 What does slightly indicate? _____

6 What two meanings can significantly have? _____

6 Rewrite using the word in capitals.

1 Almost all respondents agreed. **MAJORITY** _____

2 The figures differ by a small amount. **SLIGHTLY** _____

3 About 500 visitors attended. **APPROXIMATELY** _____

4 The improvement was large. **CONSIDERABLE** _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a **100-120 word** report summarising imaginary survey results. Include number, proportion and degree expressions.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Distinguish exact and approximate figures. [ ] Avoid contradictory intensifiers.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Number and degree expressions

1 **c** 2 **e** 3 **f** 4 **h** 5 **b** 6 **d** 7 **g** 8 **a**

2 Quantity and degree collocations

1 **number** 2 **amount** 3 **range** 4 **degree** 5 **majority** 6 **proportion** 7 **considerable** 8 **significantly**

3 Corrections

1 large **number** 2 increased **very slightly** 3 **the majority** 4 **less** traffic
5 were **slightly different** 6 great **amount** of information 7 **difficult enough** 8 Approximately 60

4 Survey report

1 **approximately** 2 **range** 3 **majority** 4 **proportion** 5 **considerable** 6 **slightly** 7 **highly** 8 **entirely**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 When available and necessary. 2 A figure has been rounded. 3 A smaller group. 4 When the pattern is more important.
5 A small difference. 6 A large or statistically meaningful difference.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The vast **majority** agreed. 2 The figures differ **slightly**. 3 **Approximately** 500 attended. 4 There was a **considerable** improvement.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check precision, proportional language and consistent degree.