

8a-38 His arguments were hardly original.

▶ Neutral and negative modifiers

38:01

Neutral modifiers, such as *pretty*, don't change the overall meaning of an adjective. Negative modifiers, such as *hardly*, make a statement negative.

Brown seemed **somewhat** flustered, and his ideas were **hardly** original.

What qualities are most and least desirable in a political leader?



A: What did you think of the debate?

B: Well, Gordon's speech was impressive, and he seemed to be pretty well-informed. Brown, on the other hand, appeared somewhat flustered, and he came across as rather uncharismatic.

A: I can't entirely agree with you there. While Gordon seemed relatively well-read, his arguments were hardly original, whereas Brown's ideas were quite innovative, in my opinion.

▶ Language

Neutral modifiers

Despite being **relatively** young, he comes across as **pretty** well-informed.

She struck me as **reasonably** intelligent, in spite of getting **somewhat** flustered.

Negative modifiers

When it came to international relations, she seemed **barely** qualified.

Brown's opinions on health care are **rarely** insightful.

▶ Listening (p146)

38:02

Listen and choose which candidate you would vote for, and write why.

- Anderton
- Brown
- Chadwick

Reason:

8a-38: His arguments were hardly original.

▶ Practice (+p146)

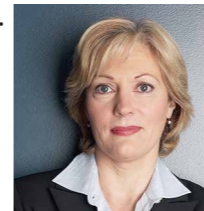
Choose a candidate and describe them using one prompt from the second column and one prompt from the third.

A. Sandy Shaw	confident	weak agenda
B. Jeff Jones	charismatic	inexperienced
C. Kaye Salmon	impressive speech	unflappable
D. Gary Mason	upfront	innovative

▶ Production (p146)

Read the information about the candidates on p146. Choose one candidate, and then persuade your partner to vote for him or her.

A.



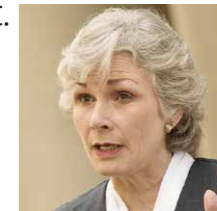
Sally Phelps

B.



Paul Mulligan

C.



Rita Carlos

▶ Resources

▶ Word Bank

negative modifiers

neutral modifiers

hardly	somewhat	utterly
rarely	relatively	extremely
scarcely	reasonably	totally
barely	pretty	really

▶ Point

When talking to someone who possibly has an opposing view, modifiers can soften statements and thereby reduce the risk of upsetting the other person.

He seemed a little ill-prepared, don't you think?