

# hard

After reading the reference material complete the sentences below.

## A) the ADJECTIVE

- 1) = opposite of soft: *“Diamond is an extremely hard material.”*  
2) = difficult: a) *“I found the maths test very hard.”*  
b) *“The actors spoke so fast that it was hard to understand what they were saying.”*

- B) the ADVERB** hardly = “almost not” a) *“The actors spoke so fast that I could hardly understand what they were saying.”* (NOTE THE USE OF “can/could!”)  
b) *“Look, the missing piece of your jigsaw puzzle is hardly the most pressing problem we have at the moment!”*  
c) Exceptionally, the verb is inverted after “hardly”! *“Hardly had we set off than the engine blew up!”*

- 1 The fog was so thick that we **could hardly see** a thing.
- 2 I was so tired that I **could hardly keep awake**.
- 3 What he said was so strange that I **could hardly believe** my ears!
- 4 It is **hardly surprising** that he failed the exam as he did no revision at all.
- 5 Why do you trust that man? You **hardly know** him!
- 6 The teacher spoke so fast that **hardly anyone** could understand a word he said.
- 7 Look, this is **hardly** a proposition for Wittgenstein!
- 8 We had **hardly travelled** 5 km when our engine blew up.
- 9 “Work **hard**, play **hard**.” That’s my motto.
- 10 Turn the telly off! I **can hardly hear** myself think!
- 11 We had **hardly enough** flour to make even a single cake.
- 12 We were stuck on a desert island with **hardly anything** to eat.
- 13 My room is so small that there is **hardly anywhere** to put anything.
- 14 **Hardly had** we got out the picnic things than it started to rain.
- 15 Jack ran so fast in the marathon that I **could hardly keep up** with him.

see

keep awake

believe

almost nobody was surprised

almost a stranger

almost nobody

it’s obvious!

travel

hear

we had almost insufficient

almost nothing

almost nowhere.

it started raining as soon as we ..

keep up