



## How to avoid 'very'

### 1 Read the text. What do you think about it? Talk briefly to a partner.

It was November. Outside, a very cold wind was blowing through the very old trees. Very loud crows screeched at each other whilst very quiet mice scrambled through the leaves. There was something, or rather someone, in the woods who had lost his way. He wasn't a very scary monster as you might expect. He was a young boy – about 8 years old. He was lost and lonely in the deep, dark woods. He was being very careful as he walked through the woods, trying to find his way home. His clothes were very dirty from climbing trees and crawling through bushes. He was very scared. He wondered if there were creatures in the woods who think little boys are very tasty. But the little boy wasn't stupid. In fact, he was very clever. He often came into the woods by himself, so he knows the place like the back of his hand. But today, he had been very tired and decided to take a nap at the top of a tree. The



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problem was that when he woke up, it was dark and he couldn't find his way out. And it was starting to get very cold.

An hour or so later, the boy took a left turn, thinking he was finally back at his house at the edge of the woods. Unfortunately, he really had lost his way. Instead of his house, he saw a shadow. It was very big. And then, the boy saw exactly what it was when it stepped out into the moonlight...

### 2 Think of words that you can use instead of 'very' + *adjective*. Rewrite the story using your own words or the words in the box.

ice-cold | huge | cautious | terrified | exhausted |  
filthy | ancient | delicious | freezing |  
terrifying | silent | intelligent | deafening

### 3 Take a look at these words. What combination of 'very' + *adjective* can they replace? Collect ideas and discuss them in class. You can use a dictionary for help.

boiling

atrocious

idiotic

amazing

spotless

## How to avoid 'very' (Beispiellösung)

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It was November. Outside, ~~a very cold~~ <sup>an ice-cold</sup> wind was blowing through the ~~very old~~ <sup>ancient</sup> trees. ~~Very loud~~ <sup>deafening</sup> crows screeched at each other whilst ~~very quiet~~ <sup>silent</sup> mice scrambled through the leaves. There was something, or rather someone, in the woods who had lost his way. He wasn't a ~~very scary~~ <sup>terrifying</sup> monster as you might expect. He was a young boy – about 8 years old. He was lost and lonely in the deep, dark woods. He was being ~~very careful~~ <sup>cautious</sup> as he walked through the woods, trying to find his way home. His clothes were ~~very dirty~~ <sup>filthy</sup> from climbing trees and crawling through bushes. He was ~~very~~ <sup>terrified</sup> ~~scared~~. He wondered if there were creatures in the woods who think little boys are ~~very tasty~~ <sup>delicious</sup>. But the little boy wasn't stupid. In fact, he was ~~very clever~~ <sup>intelligent</sup>. He often came into the woods by himself, so he knows the place like the back of his hand. But today, he had been ~~very tired~~ <sup>exhausted</sup> and decided to take a nap at the top of a tree. The



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- 3** Take a look at these words. What combination of 'very' + *adjective* can they replace? Collect ideas and discuss them in class. You can use a dictionary for help.

boiling

very hot

atrocious

very bad

idiotic

very stupid

amazing

very good

spotless

very clean