Fairly, rather, quite and pretty are all degree modifiers. They are used to express the degree to which a certain quality is present. Fairly does not show a high degree of something, rather and quite do. Test your understanding of these degree modifiers with this grammar exercise. Each question is followed by four suggested answers. Choose the most appropriate one.

1. ‘How was the movie?’ ‘………………………..
good. Not the best one I have seen this year.’
   Fairly
   Quite
   Rather

2. I ……………………… think we are going to lose.
   fairly
   quite
   rather

3. We are having …………………………. a bit of
   trouble with the kids just now.
   Fairly
   Rather
   Quite
4. You are ................................... the most interesting woman I have ever known.

   fairly
   quite
   rather

5. She didn’t run .......................... fast enough for a record.

   quite
   fairly
   rather

6. We were ................................. hoping you could stay to supper.

   fairly
   quite
   rather

7. I speak French ............................... well – enough for everyday purposes.

   fairly
   quite
Fairly, quite, rather and pretty

Answers

1. ‘How was the movie?’ ‘Fairly good. Not the best one I have seen this year.’

2. I rather think we are going to lose.

3. We are having quite a bit of trouble with the kids just now.

4. You are quite the most interesting woman I have ever known.

5. She didn’t run quite fast enough for a record.

6. We were rather hoping you could stay to supper.

7. I speak French fairly well – enough for everyday purposes.