

Qq

- qualification** ✕ I am taking another course to improve my qualification.
 ✓ **I am taking another course to improve my qualifications.**
qualifications (plural) = all the examination passes, skills and experience that you need for a particular job: 'I'd like to apply for the job but I don't have the right qualifications.'
qualification = a degree, diploma, certificate etc: 'Do you have a postgraduate qualification?' Speakers of American English use **degree, diploma, certificate** etc for this meaning.
- quality** ✕ Switzerland produces goods with a very high quality.
 ✓ **Switzerland produces goods of a very high quality.**
of (a) high/low/poor quality (NOT **with**): 'Japanese electrical products tend to be of much higher quality.'
- quarrel** ? Sometimes we quarrel about which programme to watch.
 ✓ **Sometimes we argue about which programme to watch.**
 When people **quarrel** they argue angrily, especially for a long time about something that is unimportant: 'If you two boys don't stop quarrelling, you can go straight to bed.'
 People can **argue** without feeling angry or looking silly: 'Most evenings we would sit in the kitchen arguing about politics.'
- quarter** ✕ He served his country for over quarter of a century.
 ✓ **He served his country for over a quarter of a century.**
a quarter (of sth): 'He's had almost a quarter of the cake all to himself.'
- quicker** ✕ We are able to exchange information quicker than in the past.
 ✓ **We are able to exchange information more quickly than in the past.**
Quicker is sometimes used as an adverb, but only in informal styles.
More quickly is always acceptable: 'He spoke more quickly than usual.'
- quickly** ? I went quickly to the nearest phone booth.
 ✓ **I ran to the nearest phone booth.**
Go quickly usually sounds unnatural. The same meaning can be expressed by verbs such as **hurry, rush, run, dash, sprint, etc**: 'As soon as we saw the rain clouds, we hurried back home.'
- quiet** See NICE
- quite 1** ✕ This year the work at university is quite harder than last year.
 ✓ **This year the work at university is rather harder than last year.**

Before comparative forms use **rather**, **slightly**, **somewhat** or (especially in informal styles) **a bit**, **a little** (NOT **quite**): 'My new office is rather smaller than my old one.' 'He's slightly older than me.'

Note however the common exception: 'Yes, I'm feeling quite better, thank you.' (= completely recovered)

- 2 ☐ In the circumstances, it was a quite rude answer.
 ☒ **In the circumstances, it was quite a rude answer.**

When **quite** means 'rather/fairly', it comes in front of **a/an**: 'The survey covered quite a wide range of newspapers.' 'On the whole, it was quite a good essay.'

Compare: 'a rather/fairly/pretty rude answer'

- 3 ☐ There are quite many foreign students in London.
 ☒ **There are quite a lot of foreign students in London.**

quite a lot (of) NOT **quite many/much**: 'Quite a lot of time has already been wasted.' 'I've made quite a lot of new friends.'

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