ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Quite, Rather, Pretty and Fairly Quiz

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Explanations

1. It was ___ good film.
✔ **A) quite a**
Quite and rather usually go before a: quite a good film.

2. She's ___ singer.
✔ **B) a pretty good**
Fairly and pretty go after a: a pretty good singer.

3. This suitcase is ___ too heavy. I can't lift it.
✔ **C) rather**
Only rather (not fairly, pretty or quite) can go before too: rather too heavy.

4. A British friend says, "The restaurant was quite good." What does she probably mean?
✔ **D) It was OK, but not great.**
In British English, quite + an ordinary adjective usually means fairly, not very.

5. "You're quite right." Here quite means:
✔ **A) completely**
Quite + an extreme adjective like right, sure or impossible means completely.

6. "I'm not quite ready." What does this mean?
✔ **B) I'm almost ready.**
Not quite means not completely, almost.

7. Choose the correct sentence.
✔ **C) I quite like it.**
Quite goes before the verb like: I quite like it (I like it a bit).

8. The new flat is ___ more expensive than we expected.
✔ **D) rather**
Rather can go before a comparative (more expensive). Fairly and pretty can't.

9. What does "She's pretty tall" mean?
✔ **A) She's quite tall.**
Before another adjective, pretty is an adverb meaning quite. On its own (She's pretty) it means attractive.

10. It's ___ long way to the station. Take the bus.
✔ **B) a fairly**
Fairly goes after a: a fairly long way. With quite the order is quite a long way.

11. Which word is the strongest?
✔ **C) very**
Fairly, quite, pretty and rather are softeners. They all mean less than very.

12. Choose the correct sentence.
✔ **D) It's quite impossible to finish this today.**
Quite + an extreme adjective like impossible means completely. Fairly doesn't go with extreme adjectives.

13. In American English, "The hotel was quite good" often means:
✔ **A) very good**
In American English, quite often means very. In British English it usually means fairly.

14. That was ___ surprise! I didn't expect it at all.
✔ **B) rather a**
Rather can go before a: rather a surprise (or a rather big surprise).

15. Choose the correct sentence.
✔ **C) That's rather too much.**
Rather can go before too. Pretty and fairly can't.

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