

Use of **very** and **much**

It's **very** good and cannot be **much** better: **very** to strengthen an adjective, **much** to strengthen comparatives and adverbs -

Very is used to give emphasis to an adjective or adverb. **Very** cannot be used with comparative adjectives.

...a very small child...
That's very nice of you...
It's a very good idea...
I'm very, very sorry...
Think very carefully...
He very rarely drank...
I know very little about this...
Is it urgent? Very...
I liked it very much...
I began to feel very much better...
She seemed very much changed by this experience.

Much: (a) (with past participles used as adjs in a passive structure and also with *afraid*, *alive* and *aware*, etc):

He was much angered by the report.
I'm much aware of the lack of food supplies.
... the much-criticized publicity campaign
... a much-needed holiday.

(b) (used with comparatives and superlatives):

much slower/heavier/louder
... much more expensive; ... much more confidently
She's much better today.
That was much the best meal I've had for a long time.
I would never willingly go anywhere by boat, much less go on a cruise.

Note this: we do not usually use **very** to modify superlative adjectives. Instead, we use **much** or **by far**. But note that **very** can be used to emphasize superlatives. It is also used with **first**, **next** and **last**.

*This is the **very best** wine I have tasted in my life. = This is much the best wine ...*
*This is your **very last** chance.*

You'll now realise why these statements are not adequate:

~~*She is very much beautiful.*~~
~~*She is very better today.*~~
~~*Her boyfriend is very older than her.*~~
~~*You are much handsome.*~~
~~*She looks very older than her sister.*~~
~~*Russian is very more difficult than Spanish.*~~