



'You have five messages. Press 1 to listen to your messages.'

Message one: 'Hi. I've just left the office and I'm on my way to meet you.'

Message two: 'Hi. Me again. It's just my luck, but my train is cancelled. The next one is in fifteen minutes.'

Message three: 'Hi again. Guess what. The next train is cancelled, too. I've just about had enough of trains for today. I'll call you when I know what's happening.'

Message four: 'Hi. It's me. I just called to say I'm on my way.'

Message five: 'Hi. I'm walking towards you and I just called to say I love you.'

Presentation

The adverb *just* appears in a sentence before the word it emphasizes. It can come:

- before the main verb: *She's **just** left a message.*
- before a preposition: *The phone rang **just** about a minute ago.*
- before a noun: *It's **just** a short message.*
- before an adjective: *Your new phone is **just** amazing!*
- before a conjunction: *I'll be with you **just** as soon as I've finished this call.*

We often use *just* in spoken English and it has different meanings:

very recently	<i>She's just left the office.</i>
simply	<i>It's just a matter of luck.</i>
only	<i>He just sings – he doesn't write the music.</i>
exactly	<i>It's just the kind of music I love.</i>
a little	<i>They were on stage for just over two hours.</i>

In some cases *just* has no particular meaning, but is used for emphasis:

I just love this track!

It's just amazing!

That's just not acceptable!

Just taste this pizza!

Other uses of *just*

- We use *just* when something almost doesn't happen:
*I can **just** hear you.* (= with difficulty)
*We **just** made it to the station on time.* (= but we nearly didn't)
- *Just about* means *almost*:
*I've **just about** had enough of this.*
*The programme's **just about** over.*
- *Just as* is used to emphasize that something is equal to something else:
*The view is **just as** good from here.*

Exercises

1 Choose the word or words in each sentence which could be replaced with the adverb *just* or *just about*.

- 1 I (recently) sent you an email. just
- 2 It's simply a matter of being in the right place at the right time.
- 3 I was at the shop for about an hour and only bought a pair of socks.
- 4 This is exactly the kind of behaviour which makes me angry.
- 5 The band played all their famous songs which took a little over three hours.
- 6 We could with difficulty see you at the back.
- 7 This cheaper brand is equally as good as the real thing.
- 8 You should try this ice cream!

2 Delete the incorrect uses of *just* in these sentences and choose the correct one.

- 1 It's (just) what I've ~~just~~ always ~~just~~ wanted.
- 2 We've just seen the most just amazing just new band.
- 3 If just you think that tastes good, then just taste just this.
- 4 By the time I just arrived just, the film was just about over.
- 5 Your bag is just behind that just chair over just there.
- 6 Is just this your homework? That's just not just acceptable!
- 7 Can you speak just up? I can just hear you but just it's hard.
- 8 When I saw just her new haircut, I was just as just surprised as you.

3 Write *just* in Joel's responses in this conversation.

Dan: Can you tell Mina that we have a meeting?

Joel: ¹I just did.

Dan: Great. By the way, did you have time to look at the new office designs?

Joel: ²Yes. They're amazing!

Dan: I'm glad you like them.

Joel: ³And I love the colours.

Dan: Yes, they look great, but I hope they work as well.

Joel: ⁴I'm sure they'll work as well.

Dan: Do you think the staff will like them?

Joel: ⁵Ask them.