

barely

['beəli] *adv*

- едва; только; чуть не; еле-еле; лишь, с трудом
 we barely caught the train - мы едва не опоздали на поезд
 he barely escaped - он с трудом унёс ноги
 she is barely sixteen - ей едва исполнилось шестнадцать
 it is barely 3 o'clock - сейчас всего три часа
 with barely strength enough to move - едва двигаясь от слабости
- голо; бедно
 the room was barely furnished - комната была бедно обставлена
- редк.* прямо; открыто
 he stated the case barely before us - он откровенно/прямо/ изложил нам всё дело
- просто; всего лишь
 not barely in word but truly in deed - не просто на словах, но и на деле

barely

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

bare-ly [barely] *BrE* ['beəli] *AmE* ['berli] *adverb*

- in a way that is just possible but only with difficulty
 - He could barely read and write.
 - The music was barely audible.
 - She was barely able to stand.
 - We barely had time to catch the train.
- in a way that almost does not happen or exist
 - She barely acknowledged his presence.
 - There was barely any smell.
- just; certainly not more than (a particular amount, age, time, etc.)
 - Barely 50% of the population voted.
 - He was barely 20 years old and already running his own company.
 - They arrived barely a minute later.
- only a very short time before
 - I had barely started speaking when he interrupted me.

Grammar Point:

hardly / scarcely / barely / no sooner

Hardly, scarcely and barely can all be used to say that something is only just true or possible. They are used with words like **any** and **anyone**, with adjectives and verbs, and are often placed between **can**, **could**, **have**, **be**, etc. and the main part of the verb: ▪ They have sold scarcely any copies of the book. ◊ I barely recognized her. ◊ His words were barely audible. ◊ I can hardly believe it. ◊ I hardly can believe it.

Hardly, scarcely and barely are negative words and should not be used with **not** or other negatives: I can't hardly believe it.

You can also use hardly, scarcely and barely to say that one thing happens immediately after another: ▪ We had hardly/scarcely/barely sat down at the table, when the phone rang. In formal, written English, especially in a literary style, these words can be placed at the beginning of the sentence and then the subject and verb are turned around: ▪ Hardly/Scarcely had we sat down at the table, when the phone rang. Note that you usually use **when** in these sentences, not **than**. You can also use **before**: ▪ I scarcely had time to ring the bell before the door opened. No sooner can be used in the same way, but is always used with **than**: ▪ No sooner had we sat down at the table than the phone rang.

Hardly and scarcely can be used to mean 'almost never', but barely is not used in this way: ▪ She hardly (ever) sees her parents these days. ◊ She barely sees her parents these days.

barely

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

bare-ly /'beəli \$ 'berli/ *BrE* *AmE* *adverb*

- only with great difficulty or effort **SYN only just**:
 - She was very old and barely able to walk.
 - Mary had barely enough money to live on.

barely audible/perceptible/visible/discernible etc

 - His voice was barely audible.
 - She could barely understand English.
- almost not **SYN hardly**:
 - She was barely aware of his presence.
 - Joe and his brother are barely on speaking terms.
- used to emphasize that something happens immediately after a previous action **SYN only just** *British English*:
 - Graham had barely finished his coffee when Henry returned.
- used before amounts or numbers to emphasize that they are surprisingly small **SYN only**:
 - Nowadays, the village has barely 100 inhabitants.

barely

Freakuency Pack

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