

scarcely['skeəslɪ] *adv*

1. едва, почти (не)

scarcely ever - почти никогда

scarcely thirty people - не больше тридцати человек

he scarcely troubled to listen to me - он почти не слушал меня

he is scarcely seventeen years old - ему нет и семнадцати

I have scarcely any money left - у меня почти не осталось денег

the rain continued with scarcely any pause - дождь шёл почти без перерыва

I scarcely know her - я почти не знаю её, я едва знаком с ней

he scarcely thinks of anything else - ни о чём другом он и не думает; он только об этом и думает

2. едва, с трудом

I could scarcely drag one foot after the other - я насилу /еле-еле/ передвигал ноги

I could scarcely believe my eyes - я не мог поверить своим глазам

I can scarcely believe such a story as that - мне трудно поверить этому

3. едва ли, вряд ли

scarcely! - вряд ли!; сомнительно!

he can scarcely have said so - едва ли он мог это сказать; не может быть, чтобы он это сказал

4. употребляется как вежливая форма отрицания или сомнения:

I scarcely think so - не думаю, что это так

I scarcely know what to say - право, не знаю, что и сказать

scarcely

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

scarcely [scarcely] BrE ['skeəslɪ] ^m NAmE ['skersli] ^m *adverb*

1. only just; almost not

• I can scarcely believe it.

• We scarcely ever meet.

• Scarcely a week goes by without some new scandal in the papers.

• There was scarcely a tree left standing after the storm.

2. used to say that sth happens immediately after sth else happens

• He had scarcely put the phone down when the doorbell rang.

• Scarcely had the game started when it began to rain.

3. used to suggest that sth is not at all reasonable or likely

• It was scarcely an occasion for laughter.

• She could scarcely complain, could she?

• You can scarcely blame Annie.

• It is scarcely surprising that the reforms have provoked such widespread discontent.

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.

scarcely

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

scarcely /'skeəslɪ \$ 'sker-/ BrE ^m AmE ^m *adverb*1. almost not or almost none at all **SYN hardly**:

▪ The city had scarcely changed in 20 years.

▪ The country had scarcely any industry.▪ He scarcely ever left the region.**can/could scarcely do something**

▪ It was getting dark and she could scarcely see in front of her.

scarcely a day/year/moment etc

▪ Scarcely a day goes by when I don't think of him.

2. only a moment ago **SYN hardly, barely**:▪ He had scarcely sat down when there was a knock at the door.3. definitely not or almost certainly not **SYN hardly**:

▪ Early March is scarcely the time of year for sailing.

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