HARD vs. HARDLY

One tiny word. A completely different meaning!

HARD

Meaning: with a lot of effort; with difficulty

I work hard.
I put in a lot of effort.

She studies hard.
She makes a lot of effort.

He tried hard.
He made a strong effort.

HARDLY

Meaning: almost not at all; very little

I hardly work.
I do very little work.

She hardly studies.
She studies very little.

He hardly tried.
He made very little effort.

3 USEFUL EXPRESSIONS WITH HARDLY

Hardly ever	very rarely	**I hardly ever eat out.**
Hardly any	almost none	**There is hardly any milk left.**
Can hardly	can almost not	**I can hardly hear you.**

REMEMBER THIS TRICK

HARD = A LOT OF EFFORT

HARDLY = ALMOST NOT AT ALL

QUICK PRACTICE

1. I practised _____ for the interview.
2. I could _____ hear the announcement.
3. She _____ ever watches TV.

Answers: 1. hard 2. hardly 3. hardly

Fluency tip: Read each example aloud, then make two sentences about your own day.