Quite and understatement

meaning of quite:

fairly	completely		Yes
gradable adjectives tired, good, cold, angry, … *E.g. I'm **quite tired**.* *E.g. It's **quite cold** today.* **Exception:** **quite different → very different** **quite clear → very clear** **quite sure → completely sure** *E.g. You've made your position **quite clear**.* *E.g. It's **quite different**.* *E.g. Are you **quite sure** she won't mind?*	**non-gradable adjectives**		
	to the extreme	**Yes/No, True/False**	
	exhausted, terrible, freezing, … *E.g. I'm **quite exhausted**.* *E.g It's **quite terrible**.*	**right, correct** *E.g. You're **quite correct**.* *E.g. A: 'I'm sorry to be so difficult.'* *B: 'That's **quite all right**.*	**Quite/Quite so! = yes** *E.g. A: It's not something we want to talk about.* *B: **Quite so**.* *E.g. A: We must finish it today.* *B: **Quite.***

meaning of quite:

completely	understate the quantity/quality
adverbs **clearly, enough, frankly, honestly** *E.g. I remember **quite clearly** that he left early yesterday.* *E.g. **Quite frankly,** I don't blame you.* *E.g. **Quite honestly**, the thought of standing up and performing live terrified me.* *E.g. I've had **quite enough** of your tantrums.* **verbs**: **agree, understand, enjoy, forget, imagine, overcome, overwhelm, spoil** *E.g. I **quite agree**.* *E.g. Don't worry. I **quite understand** your situation.* *E.g. I **quite enjoy** walking in the park.* **fixed phrases** **quite the contrary/opposite** **not + quite + verb** → not completely *E.g. I **don't quite follow** you.* *E.g. I **don't** think he **has** ever **quite forgiven** her.* *E.g. I'**ve never quite understood** why she's so successful.* *E.g. A: "Are you ready?" B: "No, **not quite**."*	**quite + noun** **quite a/the/some something** → unusual or a large amount *E.g. This is **quite a different problem**.* *E.g. She hasn't been seen for **quite some time.*** *E.g. It must be **quite some car**.* *E.g. He's **quite the little gentleman**, isn't he?* **quite a lot/bit (of something)** → a large amount/number *E.g. They drank **quite a lot of** wine.* **quite a bit/lot + comparatives** → much *E.g. We went to France when I was **quite a bit younger**.* *E.g. The new TV set is **quite a lot heavier than** the old one.* **quite a few (something)** → a fairly large number *E.g. I've been there **quite a few times**.*

Kitty Lam