

Quantifiers

§1. General information

Some, any, no, none, one

Quantifiers are words which show how many things or how much of something we are talking about. They are much, many, (a) little, (a) few, a lot (of), some, any, no, none, both, all, either, neither, each, every, (the) other(s), another.

Basic uses of “some” and “any”

Some

1. Affirmatives: *There are **some** people waiting outside.*
2. Questions + “yes”: *Would you like **some** orange juice?*
3. Requests: *May I have **some** tea?*
4. (=certain): ***Some** people believe everything*
5. Some=several: *I haven't phoned my uncle for **some** years.*

Any

1. Negatives: *I don't want **any** sugar.*
2. Uncertain questions: *Do you have **any** money on you?*
3. With “hardly”, etc.: *There's hardly **any** rain.*
4. With “at all”: *I haven't **any** idea at all.*
5. After “if”: *Buy **some** apples if you see any.*
6. Any=it doesn't matter who or which: ***Any** fool knows the right answer.*

General statements

We always use zero in general statements
Beans are good for you.

Not...any, no, none

1. We can use *no* when we mean *not any*. We use an affirmative verb with *no*.
*There **aren't any** buses after midnight. = There are **no** buses after midnight.*
*There **aren't any** plates left. = There are **no** plates.*
2. We can also use *no* in place of *not a/an*: *I'm **not an** expert. = I'm **no** expert.*
3. *None* stands on its own as a pronoun: *We have **no** bananas. We have **none**.*
*I've seen **none** of them = I've seen **no one**.*
4. We do not use *no of*. Instead we use *none of* or *none* on its own.
***None of** the films that are shown in town look very interesting.*

Exercises

#1. Put in *some, any* or *-*.

1. We can't do without ... bread.
2. There isn't ... life in that girl.
3. Buy ... bread and cheese for the picnic, if you want to help.
4. I like ... biscuits and ... sweets.
5. ... doctor will tell you that it is harmful.
6. There's hardly ... milk in the bottle.
7. If you have ... news call me back.

8. Go and ask him for ... paper. I haven't ... in my desk.
9. Can we have ... milk?
10. What material do you need? – ... that is available.
11. Put ... spices into the soup.
12. I hate ... bad news.
13. There aren't ... buses after ten o'clock.
14. I haven't got ... friends at all.
15. I can answer only ... questions on the subject.
16. Don't let us have ... nonsense about it.
17. "Let's go back home, it's late." – "I'd rather stay out a little longer." – "I suppose we've got to go home ... time."
18. I don't think there is ... milk left in the jug.

#2. Choose the right variant.

1. Give me ... milk, please.
1 any 2 some 3 no 4 –
2. We have ... rivers but have... lakes.
1 some 2 any 3 no 4 –
3. There is ... taxi when you need
1 any 2 – 3 one 4 no
4. You can find ... time between six and nine.
1 some 2 any 3 no 4 –
5. When I needed help, he didn't ask ... questions.
1 no 2 some 3- 4 any
6. You may have ... tea without milk because there isn't ... at home.
1 any 2 no 3 one 4 some
7. Ann is much younger than ... other girls in her class.
1 some 2 any 3 no 4 –
8. Shall I help you to ... fruit?
1 any 2 – 3 some 4 no

#3. Choose between *no one* and *none*.

1. ... of us is perfect; we all make mistakes.
2. That is ... of your business.
3. ... had anything to gain by his death.
4. I invited all of them but ... have come.
5. I looked around the room, expecting to see piles of books; ... were visible.
6. Of all the girls he phoned ... were at home.
7. ... answered his question, silence fell in the room.
8. He could find ... in the village who could tell him what had gone wrong.
9. ... of the new men have been able to pass the test.
10. We had ... to give us accurate information, let alone advice.

§2 *Much, many, (a) few, (a) little, a lot (of)*

Basic uses of “much” and “many”

We use *much* with singular uncountable nouns: much money.

We use *many* with plural countable nouns: many trees.

1. in negative statements:

There isn't much space in this flat.

There aren't many pandas in China.

2. in questions:

Is there much demand for silk stoking?

Will there be many guests at the party?

3. in formal statements:

Much money is spent for shopping.

Many teachers retire early.

4. in time references:

I've lived here for many years.

5. with “as...as”

Take as much as you like.

6. not much/not many to begin a sentence:

Not many know about this.

Not much happens around here in winter.

Basic uses of “a lot of” (lots of)

We use *a lot of* with plural countable or singular uncountable nouns: a lot of books.

1. in the affirmative sentences:

She spends a lot of money on clothes.

There were such a lot of people in the shops.

2. in negative statements for emphasis:

I haven't got a lot of time for people like him.

If we use a quantifier on its own (not in front of a noun or pronoun) we do not use *of*:

Did you buy any fruit? – Yes, I bought a lot/lots. (Not a lot of)

Basic uses of “little/a little” and “few/a few”

We use *few* and *a few* with plural countable nouns: a few friends, few friends.

We use *little* and *a little* with uncountable nouns: a little time, little time.

1. A little means “some but not much”, “a small quantity”:

He knows a little French.

2. A few – “a small number”

We are going away for a few days.

Compare: *I've got a little money* (=some, but not much)

I've got little money (=nearly no)

I've got a few friends (=some, but not many)

I've got few friends (=nearly no)

We sometimes use only with *a few* and *a little*:

I've got only a little time.

Exercises

#1. Supply *much/many* or *a lot of*.

1. I know old Mr. Higgins has ... money.
2. There aren't ... portraits of Shakespeare.
3. Don't be discouraged! ... have failed to run the marathon.
4. Take as ... of these tiles as you want.
5. ... was said about it.
6. How ... frames are you going to buy?
7. If you have ... news call me back.
8. He is a man of ... words.
9. Last week there was so ... rain that I was not able to go out.
10. Tom drinks ... milk – one liter a day.
11. Every day we get ... magazines and news-papers.
12. We didn't take ... photographs when we were on holiday.
13. Did you invite ... guests?
14. He knew he was not a good teacher, and he intended to do ... of that.

#2. Supply *few/a few, little* or *a little*.

1. Hurry! We've got ... time.
2. I saw Tom ... days ago.
3. If what you say is true, there is ... we can do about it.
4. I can't let you use much of this perfume. There's only ... in the bottle.
5. This town isn't very well-known and there isn't much to see, so ... tourists come here.
6. I don't think Jill would be a good teacher. She's got ... patience with children.
7. "Would you like some more cake?" – "Yes, please, but only"
8. There are very ... scholarships for students in this university.
9. We didn't have any money but Ann had
10. This is not the first time the car has broken down. It has happened ... times before.
11. There is a shortage of water because there has been very ... rain recently.

#3. Choose between *a little, a lot of, a few, fewer, many* and *much*.

DON'T CALL US, WE'LL CALL YOU!

Two years ago I moved to a new neighborhood. There seem to be very ... people in this area who are without telephones, so I expected to get a new phone quickly. I applied for one as soon as I moved into my new house. 'We aren't supplying ... new phones in your area', an engineer told me. '... people want new phones at the moment and the company is employing ... engineers that last year so as to save money. A new phone won't cost you ... money, but it will take ... time. We can't do anything for you before December. 'You need ... patience if you're waiting for a new phone and you need ... friends whose phones you can use as well. Fortunately, I had both. December came and went, but there was no sign of a phone. I went to the company's local office to protest. 'They told me I'd have a phone by December,' I protested. 'Which year?' the assistant asked.

§3. *Both, all, each, every*

Basic uses of "both" and "all"

1. We use *both* and *both the* in exactly the same way to refer to two particular people or things (plural countable nouns):

Both children /both the children are in bed.

2. We use *all*+noun to refer to things in general (=the whole number or amount):

All children like to play (plural countables).

All advice is useless (uncountable nouns).

3. *All the* refers to particular people or things:

All the children in our street like to play (=all the+ plural countable nouns)

All the advice you gave me was useless (=all the+ uncountable noun)

Three basic positions of “both” and “all” in affirmative sentences

1. After *be* when it is the only verb in a sentence:

The girls are both ready (=Both girls/Both the girls are ready)

The girls are all ready (=All the girls are ready)

2. After auxiliaries or the first auxiliary when there is more than one:

The boys can both speak French (=Both boys/Both the boys can speak French)

The committee should all have resigned (=All the committee should have resigned)

3. Before the main verb when there is only one verb:

The girls both left early (=Both girls/Both the girls left early)

The girls all left early (=All the girls left early)

We/you/they both = both of us/you/them

We/you/they both ready = both of us/you/them are ready

We/they all = All of us/them

We/they all left early = All of us/them left early

Us both/all = to both/all of us

He gave us both/all some money = He gave some money to both/all of us

In negative sentences:

Both → neither

Both the girls left early = Neither of the girls left early

All → none

All the girls left early = None of the girls left early

Exercises

#1. Supply *both (the)* or *all the*.

1. ... tires on my bicycle are flat.

2. ... people are mortal.

3. ... salt in this bag is damp.

4. ... drinking water must be pure.

5. ... windows in the house are open.

6. ... addresses in this list are pit of date.
7. ... twins want to go to the party.
8. ... cars need regular servicing.
9. ... front legs of this chair are shaky.
10. ... earth and moon go round the sun.

#2. Put in *us, them, both, both the, all or all the.*

ALL ON BOARD?

... of ... who travel by plane probably find reasons to complain about airlines, but it is less common for airlines to complain about ...! At 2.35 p.m. Flight 767 was ready to leave for Ibiza and nearly ... passengers were on board. At 6.10 p.m. the plane was still on the runway. Two passengers hadn't boarded. If people check in but don't board ... the luggage must be unloaded. ... passengers had to get off the plane and ... of ... identified their luggage. At the end there were two pieces of luggage left. Just then, ... missing passengers appeared. "We ... went to the bar and we had something to drink and a sandwich," they explained. ... of ... had been sitting in the bar for hours! The captain scolded ... severely and the other passengers were very angry with

Each, every

Basic uses of "each" and "every"

1. We often use *each* and *every* to refer to two people or things. When referring to more than two we can use both *each* and *every*. *Each* suggests 'one by one', 'separately'; *every* suggests 'all together':

My wife and I each ordered avocado to start with.

Each child at the party had a piece of cake (Every is possible)

Every child in the world loves ice-cream

2. We must use *every* after *nearly* and after *not*:

Nearly every shop is shut today.

3. We cannot use *of* after *every* and we cannot use *every* at the end of a sentence:

Each of the child received a present. They received a present each.

Exercises

#1. Supply *each* or *every*. Sometimes both are possible

1. Nearly ... home in the country has television.
2. Here is something for ... of you.
3. Not ... student is capable of learning English.
4. Our monitoring organization will give you
5. The admission ticket cost us \$5
6. They seem to be repairing ... road in the country.
7. ... road is clearly signposted.
8. There's a fire extinguisher on ... floor of the building.
9. ... floor in the building has its own fire extinguisher.
10. They both did well and they will ... receive prizes.

#2. Choose between *every*, *both* and *each*.

1. ... day he comes here, and ... time he asks me the same question.
2. There was a huge building on ... side of the square, ... having a massive arched gate.
3. He shook hands and had a few minutes' talk with ... of us.
4. I see him ... day.
5. ... his legs were broken in the accident.
6. You've been given ... opportunity to do well in this company.
7. I've phoned him twice, but he's been out on ... occasion.
8. Not ... train driver is on strike today.
9. By that time ... his sisters had got married.
10. She had brown shining hair which hung down on ... sides of her face.

§4. *Another*, *(the) other(s)*, *either*, *neither*, *all*, *(a/the) whole*

Basic uses

1. *Another* doesn't refer to anything in particular. It can mean:
 - 'different': *Come another day.* (= any other day, no particular day)
 - 'additional': *We need another day to finish this.* (= one more day, no particular day)

2. We can contrast *some* and *other(s)* when we talk about things in general:

Some holidays are cheap and other holidays are expensive.

Some holidays are cheap and others are expensive. (= holidays in general)

3. We can contrast *one* with *the other* or *the others* when referring to particular things:

This one is mine and the other one is yours. (Or: ... *the other is yours*)

This one is mine and the other ones are yours. (Or: ... *the others are yours*)

4. We can use *the other(s)* to refer to people as well:

John went cycling and the other boy/the other boys went with him. John went cycling and the others went with him.

5. *The other day* can mean 'a few days ago'; *the next day* refers to the following day:

I met your father in the street the other day. (= a few days ago)

We spent our first night in Cairo and the next day we went to Alexandria.

'Either' and 'neither' + singular nouns

Either and *neither* refer to two people, things, etc. only.

Either means 'one or the other':

Which pot will I use? - Either (of them). It doesn't matter which.

Neither means 'not one and not the other':

Which pot will I use? - Neither (of them). Use this frying pan.

Exercises

#1. Supply *another*, *other*, *the next*, *the other*, *the others*, *others*, *either* or *neither*.

- 1 John came to see me ... day. It was last Friday, I think.
- 2 You can't use those screwdrivers ... of them is suitable for the job.
- 3 I met two strangers on the way to work. One of them greeted me and ... don't.
- 4 Some people like to have the windows open all the time; ... don't.

- 5 I met John a year ago, but I've ... seen him nor heard from him since.
- 6 Say what you like about those two applicants. I didn't like ... of them!
- 7 I can't see him today. I'll have to see him ... day.
- 8 I don't know who's on the phone. It's ... your mother or your aunt.
- 9 We spent the night in a small village and continued our journey ... day.
- 10 When shall we meet: at 7 or at 7.30? - I don't mind ... time is convenient
- 11 Bill and ... boy are playing in the yard. Jane and ... girls are in the front room.
- 12 There must be ... road that leads to the city centre.
- 13 I know you sent us two letters, but we have received ... of them.
- 14 There must be ... roads that lead to the city centre.
- 15 It wasn't a very good football match. ... team played well.
- 16 I can't let you have any of these plants, but you can have all

#2. Choose between *another*, *(the) other*, *(the) others*.

- 1 The house on ... side of the river was built of grey stone.
- 2 The shoes do not fit me. Will you kindly give me ... pair?
- 3 He was always somewhat indifferent to the feelings of
- 4 Why are you alone? Where are ...?
- 5 Without ... word he left the room.
- 6 They haven't met for twenty years; neither of them has ever seen even a photo of
- 7 Would you like ... cup of tea?
- 8 I met him at the club ... night.
- 9 There were many people on the beach. Some were bathing, ... were basking in the sun.
- 10 ... people have told me the same thing.

All (the), (a/the) whole

All (the) compared with (a/the) whole

1. We use *the whole* and *a whole* with singular countable nouns:

*He ate **the whole loaf**. He swallowed **a whole banana**. **The whole film** was boring.*

We do not use *the whole* with plurals or uncountable nouns. (Not *'the whole books/bread*)

2. Some nouns combine only with *all*:

*He spent **all the money**. She's 90 and she's still got **all her teeth**.*

Some nouns combine only with *whole*:

*You must tell me **the whole truth**. I'd like to know **the whole history** of the whole*

Some nouns combine with *all* or *whole*:

*I've waited **all my life/my whole life** for such a moment as this.*

3. We also use *all* and *a/the whole* with time references: *all day, a/the whole night*

Whole is stronger than *all*' and also combines with words like *hour* and *century*

a/the whole hour, a/the whole century.

All compared with everyone/everybody and everything

1. We rarely use *all* on its own to mean 'everyone/everybody':

*Everyone/Everybody wanted Marilyn's autograph. (Not *All wanted*).*

2. *All* means 'everyone/everybody' when we use other words with it:

All of us/We all agreed to sign the contract. All those who were present were in favor.

(= Everyone/Everybody agreed to sign. Everyone/Everybody present was in favor.)

3. We often use *all* and *everything* with other words to refer to things:

All/Everything I have belongs to you. He taught me all/everything I know.

But note: *He gave me everything.*

Exercises

#1. Rewrite these sentences using *either all or whole*.

1. I'm losing my hair

2. He explained the situation to me

3. The money was spent

4. You didn't tell me the truth

5. I heard the story

6. It will take a century to clean up the atmosphere ... f.

#2. Use *all, everyone or everything* in these sentences.

1. When the famous actress appeared ... wanted to speak to her

2. ... I invited came to my party.

3. I'm not buying anything ... is too expensive.

4. ... those who know me can be sure I'm telling the truth.

5. ... of us felt that it had been a wonderful experience.

6. ... stood up when the President came into the room.

7. ... talked about the elections, but I'm not sure they ... voted.

8. ... in the building was destroyed in the fire. Some of the objects were priceless.

9. I wouldn't help you for ... the tea in China!

10. How much do you want for ... in the shop?

§5. Quantifiers + countable/uncountable nouns

Some quantifiers combine with countable nouns; some with uncountable and some with both kinds:

A	B
+ plural countable	+ uncountable

Both books

both

(a) few

fewer

the fewest

a/the majority of

(not) many
A minority of
A number of/several

A (small) amount of
A bit of
a great deal of
a good deal of
(a) little
less
(not) much
The least

C
+ uncountable
+ plural countable
some books
some ink
any (of the)
enough
a lot of/lots of
hardly any
more/most (of the)
plenty of
no, none of the

D
+ singular countable
each book

all (of) the
any/some (of the)
each
either
every
most of the
neither
no, none of the

Exercises

#1 Choose the right word in brackets.

1. We have imported ... videos this year than last year.
2. There has been ... demand for videos this year than last year.
3. ... vehicles have just been recalled because of a design fault.
4. ... effort has been put into this project.
5. There isn't ... hope of finding the wreck.
6. There aren't ... dictionaries that can compare with this one.
7. ... book was written by someone else.
8. ... magazines carry advertisements.
9. ... metal is liable to rust.
10. I'd like ... milk in this coffee, please.
11. This room needs ... pictures to brighten it up.
12. ... businesses have gone bankrupt this year.
13. There aren't ... chocolates left!

14. There isn't ... time to waste.
15. We've had ... trouble with this machine already.
16. There have been ... accidents on this corner this year.
17. We can't accept the estimates ... estimate is low enough.
18. ... examples prove that I am right.
19. There have been ... changes in the new edition.
20. There has been ... change in the new edition.