

2B quantifiers

REFERENCE

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We use quantifiers with singular, plural and uncountable nouns to specify an amount or number.

	100%	A large amount	A small amount	0%
Uncountable or plural nouns	all any	the majority of in a majority plenty of	hardly any a lack of	no not any
Uncountable nouns		a good deal of	little/a little	
Plural nouns		a large number of	few/a few several a minority of in a minority a handful of	
Singular nouns	every each			no not any

We use *a few* and *a little* to talk about a small amount or number.

There are a few tickets left.

I try to spend a little bit of time in nature every day.

We use *few* and *little* when there are not as much or as many as we would like.

I have few opportunities to get away from the city.

There is little chance of me leaving before 6 p.m.

We use *the majority of* to talk about more than 50 percent, and *the minority of* to talk about less than 50 percent. We can also talk about people or things being *in a majority* or *in a minority*.

The majority of people feel more relaxed when they are in the countryside.

I spend the majority of my working day sitting at a desk.

Those against the decision were in a minority.

We can use *a lack of* to talk about something which there is not enough of, or is missing completely.

There is a lack of affordable housing in the city.

We can use *a good deal of* or *plenty of* to talk about when there is a large amount or number of something.

We had a good deal of help from the government.

There are plenty of opportunities for improvement.

We use *several* or *a handful of* to talk about a small number.

A handful of us went to the concert.

Several of them talked about the importance of downtime.

PRACTICE

1 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

- It was cold, but there was very **little** / **a little** snow.
- Spending **the little** / **a little** time in a green space can improve your mood.
- I recently bought **few** / **a few** plants for the office.
- There are **few** / **a few** things I enjoy more than going for an early morning walk.
- I spend **a good deal of** / **a handful of** time outdoors.
- There are **several** / **a good deal of** ways you can improve your mental health.
- A few** / **A little** of us are going for a walk later if you want to join us.
- I would say there has been **a lack of** / **a minority of** focus on the issue.
- The majority of** / **Several** people in major cities use public transport.
- We are so busy that we have **no** / **every** time to just sit and relax.

2 Complete the text with the quantifiers in the box.

a few (x2) a little each handful in a minority
lack of no plenty the majority of

Ways to feel closer to nature even if you live in the city

There are ¹..... of ways to feel closer to nature, even if you live in a busy city and spend ²..... your time working or commuting to work. It only takes ³..... minutes ⁴..... day to do something that will help you to feel refreshed. Adapt your routine so that even when you think you have ⁵..... time to spare, you can still enjoy nature. There are a ⁶..... of different ways to do this. Get up ⁷..... earlier and spend ⁸..... minutes outside enjoying the fresh air before you have breakfast or start work. Watch the stars before you go to bed, or go for a walk in your lunch break. Admittedly, people who can spend hours relaxing in nature will be ⁹..... For most people working long hours, there will be a ¹⁰..... opportunities. Maybe you'll just have to watch a virtual fish tank on your phone instead and see if that makes a difference.

2 A Choose the correct word or phrase to complete the sentences.

- 1 I suspect there are **few** / **a little** / **a few** rooftop gardens in this area because the houses don't have flat roofs.
- 2 **No** / **None** / **Not any** wildflowers should be taken from these woods as it will have a negative effect on the ecosystem.
- 3 Only a **little** / **majority** / **minority** of residents are in favour of the plans to change the shared lawn into a vegetable plot.
- 4 There's a **minority** / **a little** / **little** countryside left in the region – it's almost all been built on.
- 5 I found a **handful of** / **a lack of** / **plenty of** new cycling routes round here – not many, but it might be interesting to see where they go.
- 6 I know a **little** / **a few** / **few** people who really enjoy gardening, but it's not really my thing.

B Read the sentences and correct the quantifiers in bold.

- 1 There are only a **little** of vegan restaurants in the city where I live.
- 2 **Few** of my friends live in the countryside, but most live in urban areas.
- 3 **No** time I go to the beach I come back feeling refreshed and relaxed. It's awesome.
- 4 There are a **handful of** parks in my town at all, so we have to play football at the sports centre.
- 5 There's a definite **little** of green spaces in my local neighbourhood.
- 6 I see very a **little** wildlife in my garden because I live in the city.
- 7 I spend a good **majority** of time walking in the forest near my house.
- 8 There are **no** open spaces in my city, but the ones we do have are pleasant.