

Quantifiers: Review and expansion

Some quantifiers can only be used with singular count nouns.

one blouse	each woman	every child
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Some quantifiers can only be used with plural count nouns.

a few dresses	both tuxedos	a pair of flats
many tailors	several boys	a number of styles
a couple of shirts	at least four shirts	a majority of designers

Some quantifiers can only be used with non-count nouns.

a little excitement	much interest	a great deal of trouble
less music	a bit of fear	a great amount of elegance

Some quantifiers can be used with both count and non-count nouns.

Count nouns	Non-count nouns
no children	no education
some / any evening gowns	some / any debt
a lot of / lots of windbreakers	a lot of / lots of style
a third of the classrooms	a third of the money
plenty of young women	plenty of criticism
most problems	most sleepwear
all traditional dressmakers	all cash
more ties	more food
more and more men	more and more entertainment

Note: The quantifier **a majority of** can also be used with singular count nouns that include more than one person. Use a third-person singular verb.

A majority of the population **buys** ready-to-wear clothes.

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- Quantifiers: a few and few, a little and little
- Quantifiers: using of for specific reference
- Subject-verb agreement of quantifiers followed by of

Complete each statement with one of the quantifiers.

1. Dark solid colors are flattering for (both / each) men and women.
2. I have (a great number of / a great deal of) very low-cut blouses, but I never wear them to the office.
3. (Many / Much) clothing styles are classic and appropriate for any occasion.
4. Using just (a little / a few) makeup is always in good taste.
5. (Much / Most) companies today permit workers to dress casually in the office.
6. I've convinced (every / several) friends to wear something elegant to the party.

Possessive Gerunds

You can use a possessive gerund when you want to indicate the performer of an action.

I'm not happy about **my neighbor's playing** loud music late at night.

Their texting during the concert was really embarrassing.

Doesn't his **talking** during the movie annoy you?

What bothered me was **her not apologizing** for her rudeness.

In informal English, speakers often use a name, a noun, or an object pronoun instead of a possessive.

I'm not happy about **my neighbor playing** loud music late at night.

I don't like **them hanging out** in front of my building.

Be careful!

Don't use a name, a noun, or an object pronoun if the gerund phrase is the subject of the sentence.

Use a possessive.

DON'T SAY ~~Them texting~~ during the concert was really embarrassing. OR
~~Luke texting~~ during the concert was really embarrassing.

Write yes / no questions, using possessive gerunds.

1. he / play loud music / bother you

Does his playing loud music bother you?

2. they / talk during your presentation / be annoying

3. your son / sleep late every morning / make you angry

4. she / put on her makeup on the bus / drive you crazy

5. your father / smoke in the car / bother everyone in your family

6. Sara / answer her phone during movies / attract a lot of attention

Complete the following sentences using possessive gerunds with the words in parentheses.

1. I appreciated _____ me move into my new apartment. (he/help)

2. _____ early surprised everyone at the meeting. (Sara/arrive)

3. They were upset about _____ the project deadline. (the manager/ change)

4. _____ was the highlight of our dinner party. (My friend/cook)

Adjectives with negative prefixes

1 courteous

2 excusable

3 imaginable

4 honest

5 pleasant

6 rational

7 mature

8 helpful

9 secure