

# Quantifiers

Level: beginner

We use quantifiers when we want to give someone information about the number of something: **how much** or **how many**.

Sometimes we use a quantifier in the place of a **determiner**:

*Most children start school at the age of five.*  
*We ate some bread and butter.*  
*We saw lots of birds.*

## Quantifiers with count and uncount nouns

We can use these quantifiers with both **count** and **uncount** nouns:

<i>all</i>	<i>some</i>	<i>more</i>	<i>a lot of</i>	<i>enough</i>
<i>no</i>	<i>any</i>	<i>most</i>	<i>lots of</i>	<i>less</i>

*We have lots of time.*  
*Joe has lots of friends.*  
*I can't go out. I've got no money.*  
*There was a lot of food but no drinks.*

Level: intermediate

These more **colloquial forms** are also used with both count and uncount nouns:

<i>plenty of</i>	<i>heaps of</i>	<i>a load of</i>	<i>loads of</i>	<i>tons of</i>
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*We have loads of time.*  
*Joe has plenty of friends.*  
*There was heaps of food.*

## some and any



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We do not normally use the quantifier **some** in **negative and interrogative** sentences. We normally use **any**.

*Do you have **any** children?*  
*Did you see **any** friends?*  
*We **don't** have **any** children.*  
*I **didn't** see **any** friends.*  
*We saw **some** lions at the zoo, but we **didn't** see **any** tigers.*

but we can use *some* for offers and requests:

*Would you like **some** tea?*  
*I want **some** apples, please.*

## Quantifiers with count nouns

Some quantifiers can be used **only with count nouns**:

<i>(not) many</i>	<i>each</i>	<i>either</i>	<i>(a) few</i>
<i>several</i>	<i>both</i>	<i>neither</i>	<i>fewer</i>



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These more **colloquial forms** are used only with count nouns:

<i>a couple of</i>	<i>hundreds of</i>	<i>thousands of</i>
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*I'll be back in **a couple of minutes**.*  
*There were **hundreds of people** at the meeting.*

## Quantifiers with uncount nouns

Some quantifiers can be used **only with uncount nouns**:

<i>(not) much</i>	<i>a bit of</i>	<i>a little</i>
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*Would you like **a little wine**?*  
*Could I have **a bit of butter**, please?*

These quantifiers are used particularly with **abstract nouns** such as *time*, *money* and *trouble*.

<i>a great deal of</i>	<i>a good deal of</i>
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*It will probably cost **a great deal of money**.*  
*He spent **a good deal of time** watching television.*



**LIVEWORKSHEETS**

Level: intermediate

## Members of groups

We put a noun directly after a quantifier when we are talking about members of **a group in general**:

*Few **snakes** are dangerous.*  
*Most **children** like chocolate.*  
*I never have **enough money**.*

but if we are talking about members of a **specific group**, we use **of the** as well:

*Few **of the snakes in this zoo** are dangerous.*  
*Most **of the boys at my school** play football.*  
*He's spent **all (of) the money that we gave him**.*  
*Both **(of) the chairs in my office** are broken.*

Note: with *all* and *both*, we don't need to use *of*. We can say *all the ...* and *both the ...* .

## both, either and neither



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If we are talking about **two people or things**, we use the quantifiers *both*, *either* and *neither*.

One supermarket	Two supermarkets	More than two supermarkets
The supermarket was closed.	<b>Both</b> the supermarkets <b>were</b> closed.	All the supermarkets were closed.
The supermarket wasn't open.	<b>Neither</b> of the supermarkets <b>was</b> open.	None of the supermarkets were open.
I don't think the supermarket was open.	I don't think <b>either</b> of the supermarkets <b>was</b> open.	I don't think any of the supermarkets were open.

Note that nouns with *both* have a **plural verb** but nouns with *either* and *neither* have a **singular verb**.



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## every and each

We use the quantifiers **every** and **each** with **singular nouns** to mean *all*.

*There was a party in **every street**.* (= There were parties in all the streets.)

***Every shop** was decorated with flowers.* (= All the shops were decorated with flowers.)

***Each child** was given a prize.* (= All the children were given a prize.)

*There was a prize in **each competition**.* (= There were prizes in all the competitions.)

We often use *every* to talk about times like **days, weeks** and **years**:

*When we were children, we had holidays at our grandmother's **every year**.*

*When we stayed at my grandmother's house, we went to the beach **every day**.*

*We visit our daughter **every Christmas**.*

We do not use a determiner with *every* and *each*:

*Every shop was decorated with flowers.* (NOT ~~The every-shop~~)

*Each child was given a prize.* (NOT ~~The each-child~~)

