

Quantifiers

1. Graded Quantifiers

many /much/ more/ few/ less /little /least /most /fewest

Quantifiers function like comparatives and hold a relative position on a scale of increase or decrease.

INCREASE	With plural countable nouns:	many	more	most
	With uncountable nouns:	much	more	most
DECREASE	With plural countable nouns:	few	fewer	fewest
	With uncountable nouns:	little	less	least

2. Quantifiers with countable and uncountable nouns

(a little/a bit/no/none/a few/a number/some/several/a great deal/a lot/ a large number/plenty of/lots of)

Adjectives and adjectival phrases that describe quantity are shown below. Some can only go with countable nouns (friends, cups, people), and some can only go with uncountable nouns (sugar, tea, money, advice). The words in the middle column can be used with both countable and uncountable nouns.

There are many people in England, more in India, but the country with the most people is China.
Much time and money is spent on education, more on health services but the most is spent on national defence.
Few rivers in Europe are not polluted.
Fewer people die young now than in the seventeenth century.
The country with the fewest people per square kilometre must be Australia.
Scientists have little hope of finding a complete cure for cancer before the year
2000. She had less time to study than Paul but had better results.
She seemed the least worried of everybody in the room.

ONLY with uncountable nouns	With both countable and uncountable nouns	ONLY with uncountable nouns	+ noun
a little	some	a few	
a bit	a lot of / lots of	a number of	
a great deal of	no/none	several	
a large amount of	plenty of	a great number of	
much		many	

I had a little money left, so I bought a book.
I looked for the coffee, but there was none left.
I tried to book tickets to fly to Doha, but there were none left.
He wanted to buy a lot of video games, but he only had enough money for a few.
I only have a bit of time left before the exam.
He had a great deal of money before he spent it all on a house.
He has several friends who have motor bikes.
He said there would be plenty of seats, but there were only a few empty chairs in the hall.

3. Some and Any

"Some" and "any" are used with countable and uncountable nouns to describe an indefinite or incomplete quantity.

"Some" is used in positive statements:

I had some rice for lunch.
He's got some books from the library.

"Some" is used in situations where the question is not a request for information, but a method of making a request, encouraging or giving an invitation:

Could I have some books, please?
Would you like some milk with that?

"Any" is used in questions and with not in negative statements:

Have you got any tea?
I haven't got any shoes to wear to the interview.
They haven't got any more information about university courses.

4. Both ... and..., Neither ... nor..., Either ... or...

• Both ... and

Subjects connected by 'both ... and' take a plural verb form.

Both Alice and Janice attend the conference annually.
Both Jim and Peter are attending the conference in New York this weekend.

• Either ... or

'Either ... or' is used in sentences in a positive sense meaning "one or the other, this or that, he or she, etc." Verb form depends on the subject (singular or plural) closest to the verb.

Either Peter or the girls need to attend the course. (*second subject - plural*)
Either Jane or Matt is going to visit next weekend. (*second subject - singular*)

• Neither ... nor

'Neither ... nor' is used in sentences in a negative sense meaning "not this one nor the other, not this nor that, not he nor she, etc". Verb form depends on the subject (singular or plural) closest to the main verb.

Neither Frank nor Lilly lives in Eugene. (*second subject - singular*)
Neither Axel nor my other friends care about their future. (*second subject - plural*)

5. Each, Every, All and None

- **Each**

We use “each” to talk about the individual people or things in a group. The group has a definite and often small number.

Each prize-winner can choose a book.

- **Every**

We use “every” to talk about each individual (or period of time), including all individuals (or periods of time.) Every requires a singular noun

Every school student needs to sit the EmSAT exam.
Every year the results get better.

- **All**

We use ‘all’ to mean the entire number, every individual. All requires a plural noun (where the noun is countable)

All parties are exciting, I think.
All students in the UAE need to sit the EmSAT exam.

- **None**

We use none to mean no part, not one, no one or nothing.

None of the students want to take exams.
I wanted some coffee, but there was none left.

6. Too many/much/few/little/not enough

- **Too many / too few**

We use ‘too many’ when we want to express a meaning of more than enough, more than necessary We use ‘too few’ when we want to express a meaning of less than enough, less than necessary.
We use ‘too many’ and ‘too few’ with countable nouns.

There were too many guests in the room and too few chairs
There were too many difficult questions on the exam and too few easy ones.

- **Too much / too little**

We use 'too much' when we want to express a meaning of more than enough, more than necessary

We use 'too little' when we want to express a meaning of less than enough, less than necessary. We use 'too much' and 'too little' with countable nouns.

Is there too much sugar in that coffee for you?
I have too little money in the bank to buy you a new computer.

- **Not enough...**

We can use 'not enough' instead of either 'too little' or 'too few'.

We use 'not enough' with countable and uncountable nouns.

There were too many guests in the room and not enough chairs.
I don't have enough money in the bank to buy you a new computer game.

Practice:

Choose the correct answer from a, b, c , or d:

1. There is _____ milk left in the fridge.

- a. any
- b. a little
- c. many
- d. a few

2. Could you buy me _____ stamps, please?

- a. many
- b. a few
- c. a little
- d. several

3. - Are there_____ students in your class?

- a. many
- b. much
- c. a little
- d. some

4. You shouldn't drink_____coffee.

- a. too many
- b. few
- c. too much
- d. a lot

5. The children have _____ warm clothes for this winter.

- a. much
- b. a little
- c. enough
- d. too much

6. Are there _____ people in the park?

- a. many
- b. much
- c. a little
- d. lots

7. Could I have_____ tea please?

- a. several
- b. some
- c. many
- d. much

8. "Can I have some salt?" Sorry, we don't have_____.

- a. any
- b. many
- c. none
- d. some

9. Would you like_____ milk in your coffee?

- a. some
- b. many
- c. a few
- d. a lot

10. Don't pay_____ attention to what he says.

- a. a few
- b. some
- c. many
- d. any

11. There isn't_____ cheese left in the fridge. We have to get some.

- a. any
- b. some
- c. many
- d. no

12. Can I have_____ more of that tomato soup? I am really hungry.

- a. few
- b. many
- c. some
- d. several

13. Do you have any fresh bread? No, I am sorry. We don't have_____ left.

- a. some
- b. no
- c. any
- d. much

14. There is _____ time to get to the airport.

- a. a few
- b. most
- c. many
- d. little

15. We had_____ money left, so we went out for a meal.

- a. a little
- b. any
- c. a few
- d. many

16. Would you like_____ orange juice with breakfast?

- a. a few
- b. many
- c. any
- d. a lot

17. - He doesn't have_____ close friends and often feels lonely.

- a. much
- b. many
- c. little
- d. a few

18. He eats _____ junk food to stay healthy.

- a. too little
- b. too few
- c. too much
- d. too many

19. - She doesn't have _____ money for her taxi fare home

- a. enough
- b. many
- c. few
- d. little

20. - I asked two people the way to the station, but _____ of them could help me.

- a. one
- b. either
- c. both
- d. neither