

UNIT 6

Expressing quantity

Quantifiers

- 1 The following can be used before a noun.

some/any	much/many	each/every	more/most	a little/little
a few/few	both	fewer/less	several	all/no enough

With count nouns only	With uncount nouns only	With singular count nouns only
(not) many biscuits a few cars very few trees fewer books several answers	(not) much luck a little cheese very little experience less time	each boy every time
		With plural count nouns only
		both parents
With both count and uncount nouns		
some money some eggs (not) any water (not) any friends	more/most wine more/most people all/no work all/no children	enough food enough apples

- 2 Most of the quantifiers can be used without a noun. *No*, *all*, *every*, and *each* cannot.

<i>Have you got any money?</i>	<i>Not much/a little/enough.</i>
<i>Are there any eggs?</i>	<i>A few/not many.</i>
<i>Have some wine.</i>	<i>I don't want any.</i>
<i>How many people came?</i>	<i>Very few.</i>
<i>Have some more tea.</i>	<i>I've got some.</i>
<i>Did Ann or Sam go?</i>	<i>Both.</i>

- 3 Most of the quantifiers can be used with *of* + *the/my/those*, etc. + noun. *No* and *every* cannot.

They took all of my money.
Take a few of these tablets.
Some of the people at the party started dancing.
Were any of my friends at the party?
Very few of my friends smoke.
Not much of the food was left.
I've missed too many of my French lessons.
I couldn't answer several of the questions.
I'll have a little of the strawberry cake, please.
Both of my children are clever.
I feel tired most of the time.
I've had enough of your jokes.

- 4 For *no* and *every*, we use *none* and *every one* or *all*.

None of the audience was listening.
All of the hotels were booked.

In formal, written English, *none* is followed by a singular form of the verb.

None of the guests has arrived yet.

But in informal English, a plural verb is possible.

None of my friends smoke.

None of the lights are working.

Note

When we use *none* with a plural noun or pronoun, the verb can be singular or plural. Grammatically, it should be singular, but people often use the plural when they speak.

None of my friends is coming.

None of my friends are coming.

some, any, somebody, anything

- 1 The basic rule is that *some* and its compounds are used in affirmative sentences, and *any* and its compounds in negatives and questions.

*I need **some** help.*

*I need **somebody** to help me.*

*Give me **something** for my headache.*

*I don't need **any** shopping.*

*We can't go **anywhere** without being recognized.*

*Is there **any** sugar left?*

*Did **anyone** remember to buy milk?*

- 2 *Some* and its compounds are used in requests or invitations, or when we expect the answer 'yes'.

*Have you got **some** money you could lend me?*

*Would you like **something** to eat?*

*Can we go **somewhere** quiet to talk?*

- 3 *Any* and its compounds are used in affirmative sentences that have a negative meaning.

*He **never** has **any** money.*

*You made **hardly any** mistakes.*

*I made the cake myself **without any** help.*

- 4 *Any* and its compounds are used to express *It doesn't matter which/who/where*.

*Take **any** book you like. I don't mind.*

***Anyone** will tell you 2 and 2 makes 4.*

*Sit **anywhere** you like.*

*I eat **anything**. I'm not fussy.*

nobody, no one, nowhere, nothing

- 1 These are more emphatic forms.

*I saw **nobody** all weekend.*

*I've eaten **nothing** all day.*

- 2 They can be used at the beginning of sentences.

***No one** was saved.*

***Nobody** understands me.*

***Nowhere** is safe any more.*

much, many, a lot of, lots of, a great deal of, a large number of, plenty of

- 1 *Much* and *many* are usually used in questions and negatives.

*How **much** does it cost?*

*How **many** people came to the party?*

*Is there **much** unemployment in your country?*

*I don't have **much** money.*

*Will there be **many** people there?*

*You don't see **many** snakes in England.*

- 2 We find *much* and *many* in affirmative sentences after *so*, *as*, and *too*.

*He has **so much** money that he doesn't know what to do with it.*

*She's got nearly **as many** Facebook friends as I have.*

*You make **too many** mistakes. Be careful.*

- 3 In affirmative sentences, the following forms are found.

Spoken/informal

*There'll be **plenty of** food/people. (uncount and count)*

*We've got **lots of** time/friends. (uncount and count)*

*I lost **a lot of** my furniture/things. (uncount and count)*

Written/more formal

*A **great deal of** money was lost during the strike. (uncount)*

*A **large number of** strikes are caused by bad management. (count)*

***Many** world leaders are quite young. (count)*

***Much** time is wasted in trivial pursuits. (uncount)*

- 4 These forms are found without nouns.

*'Have you got enough socks?' **Lots.***

*'How many people were there?' **A lot.***

*Don't worry about food. We've got **plenty.***

little/few/less/fewer

- 1 *A little* and *a few* express a small amount or number in a positive way. Although there is only a little, it is probably enough.

*Can you lend me **a little** sugar?*

***A few** friends are coming round tonight.*

- 2 *Little* and *few* express a small amount in a negative way. There is not enough.

***Very few** people passed the exam.*

*There's **very little** milk left.*

- 3 *Fewer* is the comparative of *few*; *less* is the comparative of *little*.

***Fewer** people go to church these days. (= count noun)*

*I spend **less and less** time doing what I want to. (= uncount noun)*

It is becoming more common to find *less* with a count noun. Many people think that this is incorrect and sounds terrible.

****Less** people go to church.*

You should smoke **less cigarettes.*

all

- 1 We do not usually use *all* to mean *everybody/everyone/everything*.

***Everybody** had a good time.*

***Everything** was ruined in the fire.*

*I said hello to **everyone**.*

But if *all* is followed by a relative clause, it can mean *everything*.

***All** (that) I own is yours.*

*I spend **all** I earn.*

This structure can have a negative meaning, expressing ideas such as *nothing more* or *only this*.

***All I** want is a place to sleep.*

***All I** had was a couple of beers.*

***All that** happened was that he pushed her **a** bit, and she fell over.*

- 2 Before a noun with a determiner (for example *the*, *my*, *this*) both *all* and *all of* are possible.

*You eat **all** (of) the time.*

***All** (of) my friends are coming tonight.*

Before a noun with no determiner, we use *all*.

***All** people are born equal.*

- 3 With personal pronouns, we use *all of*.

***All of** you passed. Well done!*

*I don't need these books. You can have **all of** them.*