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**Quantifiers**

Quantifiers are words or phrases which often modify nouns and state the quantity or amount of something without stating the exact number. Quantifiers show *how many* or *how much* of something we are talking about.

1. **Some** and **Any**

***Some*** and ***any*** are used with plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns to imply indefinite quantities or numbers; i.e, when the exact quantity or number that we are thinking of is not known or is not important.

* I bought **some** food.
* I need **some** new clothes.
* Have you got **any** stamps?
* We do not have **any** sugar.
  1. **Some :** It is used:

1. In affirmative statements.

* She had ***some*** doubts about the decision.
* I gave him ***some*** money.
* There are ***some*** eggs and some ***milk*** in the fridge.

1. In questions where we are sure about the answer **yes**.

* Did she give you ***some*** tea? (I am sure she did)
* Is there ***some*** fruit juice in the fridge? (I am sure there is)
* Didn’t John’s parents give him ***some*** money? (I believe they did)

1. When the question is not a request for information, but a way of making an offer, a polite request, or an invitation, and we want to encourage the person we are speaking to to say **yes**.

* Would you like ***some*** coffee?
* May I have ***some*** more milk?
* Could I have ***some*** books, please?

**Note:** It is possible to use *some* with a singular countable noun to talk about a particular person or thing without mentioning that person or thing specifically.

* There must be some way I can contact Mary. → there must be a/one way, but I do not know it.
  1. **Any:** It is used:

1. In real questions; i.e, where the question is a real request for information.

* Is there ***any*** tea left?
* Do you have ***any*** better ideas?

1. In negative statements containing **not**.

* She did not give me ***any*** information.
* We haven’t got ***any*** shirts of your size.

1. In affirmative statements if *any* comes after a word which meaning is negative.

* He never does ***any*** good deeds.
* She seldom/rarely has ***any*** food to give us.
* There is hardly ***any*** coffee left.
* We got there without ***any*** trouble.

1. In affirmative statements to mean unspecific person or thing.

* ***Any*** of the students could have answered the question.
* You can borrow ***any*** of my pens.

1. **Much** and **Many**

***Much*** is used with uncountable nouns and ***many*** with plural countable nouns.

* ***Many*** people eat too ***much*** meat.

*Much* and *many* are mainly used:

1. In negative statements to emphasize that we are talking about small (or smaller than expected) quantities or amounts.

* I have not got ***much*** time.
* I have not got ***many*** shirts.

1. In questions to ask about amounts and quantities.

* Have you got ***much*** work to do?
* How ***many*** questions could you answer?

1. In affirmative sentences particularly in formal contexts, such as academic writing, *much* and *many* are often used or phrases such as *a great deal of* or *a large amount/number of* to talk about large amounts or quantities.

* ***Much*** debate has been generated by Johnson’s paper.
* ***Many*** people suffer from poverty. (a large number)
* ***A great deal of*** the exhibition was devoted to his recent work.

**Notes:**

* In affirmative sentences, particularly in conversations and informal writing, *a lot of, lots of* or *plenty of* are preferred to talk about large amounts and quantities.
* We have ***plenty of*** hotels to choose from. ( many hotels is more formal)
* John offered me ***a lot of*** money for the car.
* ***Lots of*** her students went on to become teachers.
* In formal contexts we can use *much* and *many* independently without a noun following them.
* ***Much*** remains to be done before the drug can be used with human beings.
* ***Many*** argue that she is the finest poet of our generation.
* In both formal and informal contexts, *much* and *many* can be used after *too, (not) so, (not) as*.
* There were *too* ***many*** guests at the party.
* There is *so* ***much*** work to do this week.
* I said there were twice *as* ***many*** women at the meeting as men.
* We can use *much* and *many* at the end of affirmative sentences after *as, so,* and *too.*
* I love my parents—the light of my eyes—*so* ***much***.
* “Have you got many discs?” “Yes, *too* **many**.” “Take *as* ***many*** as you like.” “Thank you *very/so* ***much***”
* *Much* and *many* have their comparatives and superlatives.
* With plural countable nouns:

Many more the most

* With uncountable nouns:

Much more the most

* There are ***many*** people in Poland, ***more*** in India, but ***the most*** people live in China.
* ***Much*** money is spent on education, ***more*** on health services, but ***the most*** is spent on national defense.

1. **Few/ a few, little/ a little**

These words/ expressions show the speaker’s attitude towards the quantity he/she is referring to.

* **A few** (+ plural countable nouns) and **a little** (+ uncount nouns) describe the quantity in a positive way.
* I have got ***a few*** friends. (may be not many but enough)
* I have got ***a little*** money. (I have got enough to live on)
* **Few** (+ plural countable nouns) and **little** (+ uncountable nouns) describe the quantity in a negative way.
* **Few** people visited him in hospital. ( he had almost/nearly no visitors)
* She has **little** money. (almost no money)

1. **No** and **None**

The words *no* and *none* have similar meanings—*not any*—but different grammatical functions. *No* functions as an adjective modifying the noun that immediately follows it; *none* is used without a noun; therefore, its grammatical function depends on its position in the sentence.

* There is ***not any*** sugar.
* There is ***no*** sugar.
* There is ***none***.
* There are ***not any*** sweets.
* There are ***no*** sweets.
* There are ***none***.

1. **Distributives**
   1. **Both/ Either/ Neither** and **All/ Any/ None**

*Both*, *either*, and *neither* are used when referring to groups of two.

* **Both:** It refers to two people or things of a group of two.
* I have two brothers; ***both*** *of them* are engineers.
* ***Both*** *children* were born in Italy.
* He has crashed ***both*** *(of) the cars*.
* **Either:** It refers to one person or thing of a group of two; i.e, it implies one or the other.
* I have two maps of the city, but I could not find ***either*** *of them*.
* Two people said hello to me, but I did not recognize ***either*** *of them*.
* **Neither**: It refers to zero person or thing of a group of two.
* There are two umbrellas here, but ***neither*** *of them* is mine.

**Note:**

* *Both* takes a plural verb, and *either* or *neither* takes a singular verb.
* ***Both*** *books* are expensive.
* ***Either*** *of the alternatives* is acceptable.
* ***Neither*** *alternative* is acceptable.
* Would you like the appointment at 9 or 10?
* ***Neither*** *time* arranges me.

In contrast, *all/ any/ none* are used when referring to groups with more than two members.

* **All:** It refers to the total number of things or people in a group of more than two members.
* I have three friends, but ***all*** *of them* are selfish.
* **All** *the people* in the room were silent.

**Note:** *All* may be used with uncount nouns to refer to the total amount of something.

* ***All*** *the fruit* has gone bad.
* ***All*** *cheese*contains protein.

In this case, *all* takes a singular verb.

* **Any**: It refers to one member of a group of more than two.
* I had four maps of the city, but I can not find ***any*** *of them*.
* **None:** It refers to zero member of a group of more than two.
* We have invited many guests, yet ***none*** *of them* has arrived.
  1. **Every/ Each**

**Each:** It refers to a number of people or things considered individually; i.e, the speaker thinks about the individual members of the group.

**Every:** It refers to all the items, without exception, of a group of people or things.

Compare:

* We greeted ***each*** *guest*. (we greeted the guests individually, one by one)
* We greeted ***every*** *guest*. (all the guests)
* ***Every*** *man* has a weapon. (all men have weapons)
* ***Each*** *man* has a weapon. (the speaker went to each man in turn and checked whether he has a weapon)

**Note:** *Each* and *every* take singular verbs.

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