

GRAMMAR FOCUS

3.5 Quantifiers

Quantifiers	Countable nouns	Uncountable nouns
every, each, all	each/every <i>Each/Every book cost £10.</i> all <i>All the books were quite cheap.</i>	 <i>All the furniture was quite cheap.</i>
most	most <i>Most books were quite cheap.</i>	<i>Most of the furniture was quite cheap.</i>
whole	whole <i>I've read the whole book.</i>	
many, much, a great deal of, a lot of, lots of, loads of, plenty of	many <i>Have you got many books?</i> <i>I haven't got many books.</i> a lot of/ lots of/loads of/plenty of <i>I've got a lot of/lots of/loads of/plenty of books.</i>	much/a great deal of <i>Have you got much/a great deal of furniture?</i> <i>I haven't got much/a great deal of furniture.</i> <i>I've got a lot of/lots of/loads of/plenty of furniture.</i>
a number of, several, a few, a couple of, a little, some	a number of/several/a few/a couple of <i>I've got a number of/several/a few/a couple of books.</i> some <i>I've got some books.</i>	a little <i>I've got a little furniture.</i> <i>I've got some furniture.</i>
few, little	few <i>I've got very few books.</i>	little <i>I've got little furniture.</i>
both	both <i>Both these books are mine.</i>	
either	either <i>You can buy either book.</i>	
neither	neither <i>Neither book was expensive.</i>	
no, none of	no <i>I've got no books.</i> none of <i>None of the books belongs to me.</i>	<i>I've got no furniture.</i> <i>None of the furniture belongs to me.</i>

- A few and a little have a similar meaning to some, whereas few and little mean 'not as many or as much as we'd like'.
We're staying in London for a few days.
He has few interests outside his work.
Don't worry, we still have a little time left.
Unfortunately, there is little hope of success.
- The following quantifiers are always used with the preposition of: a number of, a couple of, a great deal of, a lot of, lots of, loads of, plenty of, none of.

- All other quantifiers (except no and every) can be used with the preposition of, if it is followed by a personal pronoun, a pronoun (possessive or demonstrative) + noun or the article the.
Most shops/Most of the shops were open.
John spent most of his life on a farm.
Most research/Most of the research was carried out in the USA.
A few of us took a taxi home.