

# THE QUANTIFIERS

## ACTIVITY TYPE

Reading, Writing, Grammar,  
Exercises

## LANGUAGE FOCUS

The quantifiers

## AIM

To learn and practice the  
quantifiers in English

## LEVEL

Beginner, Elementary

## TIME

60 minutes

## INTRODUCTION

After going through your regular review and teacher talk, tell the students that they're going to learn the quantifiers in English

## PREPARATION

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student

## PROCEDURE

Give one copy of the worksheet to each student.  
Go through the grammar and exercises together.

## WRAPUP

Ask the students if they have any doubts.

Thank them for coming to the lesson.

# THE QUANTIFIERS

Quantifiers are adjectives and adjectival phrases that give approximate answers to the questions "How much?" and "How many?"

Example:

I've got a *little* money.

I've got a *lot of* friends

## QUANTIFIERS WITH COUNTABLE AND UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

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.

Only with uncountable nouns	With uncountable and countable nouns	Only with countable nouns
How much?	How much? or How many?	How many?
a little	no/ none	a few
a bit (of)	not any	a number (of)
~	some (any)	several
a great deal of	a lot of	a large number of
a large amount of	plenty of	a great number of
~	lots of	~
<b>+ noun</b>		

**Note:** *much* and *many* are used in negative and question forms.

Example:

- *How much* money have you got?
- *How many* cigarettes have you smoked?
- There's *not much* sugar in the cupboard.
- There weren't *many* people at the concert.

They are also used with *too*, *(not) so*, and *(not) as*: There were *too many* people at the concert – we couldn't see the band.

It's a problem when there are *so many* people.

There's *not so much* work to do this week.

In positive statements, we use *a lot of*.

- I've got *a lot of* work this week.
- There were *a lot of* people at the concert.

## A FEW AND FEW, A LITTLE AND LITTLE

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

*A few* (for countable nouns) and *a little* (for uncountable nouns) describe the quantity in a **positive** way:

- "I've got *a few* friends" (= maybe not many, but enough)
- "I've got *a little* money" (= I've got enough to live on)

*Few* and *little* describe the quantity in a **negative** way:

*Few* people visited him in hospital (= he had almost no visitors)

He had *little* money (= almost no money)



## 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.

It is also used in questions where we are sure about the answer:

- Did he give you *some* tea? (= I'm sure he did.)
- Is there *some* fruit juice in the fridge? (= I think there is)

*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?
- Why don't you take *some* books home with you?
- Would you like *some* books?

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

- Have you got *any* tea?
- He didn't give me *any* tea.
- I don't think we've got *any* coffee left.

More examples:

*SOME* in positive sentences.

- a. I will have *some* news next week.
- b. She has *some* valuable books in her house.
- c. Philip wants *some* help with his exams.
- d. There is *some* butter in the fridge.
- e. We need *some* cheese if we want to make a fondue.

*SOME* in questions:

- a. Would you like *some* help?
- b. Will you have *some* more roast beef?

*ANY* in negative sentences

- a. She doesn't want *any* kitchen appliances for Christmas.
- b. They don't want *any* help moving to their new house.
- c. No, thank you. I don't want *any* more cake.
- d. There isn't *any* reason to complain.

### *ANY in interrogative sentences*

- a. Do you have **any** friends in London?
- b. Have they got **any** children?
- c. Do you want **any** groceries from the shop?
- d. Are there **any** problems with your work?

## COMPOUND NOUNS MADE WITH SOME, ANY AND NO

Some +

Any +            -thing        -body        -one        -where

No +

Compound nouns with **some-** and **any-** are used in the same way as **some** and **any**.

### Positive statements:

- **Someone** is sleeping in my bed.
- He saw **something** in the garden.
- I left my glasses **somewhere** in the house.

### Questions:

- Are you looking for **someone**? (= I'm sure you are)
- Have you lost **something**? (= I'm sure you have)

- Is there *anything* to eat? (real question)
- Did you go *anywhere* last night?

### Negative statements:

- She didn't go *anywhere* last night.
- He doesn't know *anybody* here.

**NOTICE** that there is a difference in emphasis between *nothing*, *nobody etc.* and *not ... anything*, *not ... anybody*.

- I don't know *anything* about it. (= neutral, no emphasis)
- I know *nothing* about it (= more emphatic, maybe defensive)

More examples:

### ***SOMETHING, SOMEBODY, SOMEWHERE***

- a. I have *something* to tell you.
- b. There is *something* to drink in the fridge.
- c. He knows *somebody* in New York
- d. Susie has *somebody* staying with her.
- e. They want to go *somewhere* hot for their holidays.
- f. Keith is looking for *somewhere* to live.

## ***ANYBODY, ANYTHING, ANYWHERE***

- a. Is there ***anybody*** who speaks English here?
- b. Does ***anybody*** have the time?
- c. Is there ***anything*** to eat?
- d. Have you ***anything*** to say?
- e. He doesn't have ***anything*** to stay tonight.
- f. I wouldn't eat ***anything*** except at Maxim's.

## ***NOBODY, NOTHING, NOWHERE***

- a. There is ***nobody*** in the house at the moment
- b. When I arrived there was ***nobody*** to meet me.
- c. I have learnt ***nothing*** since I began the course.
- d. There is ***nothing*** to eat.
- e. There is ***nowhere*** as beautiful as Paris in the Spring.
- f. Homeless people have ***nowhere*** to go at night.

***ANY*** can also be used in positive statements to mean '***no matter which***', '***no matter who***', '***no matter what***':

Examples:

- a. You can borrow ***any*** of my books.
- b. They can choose ***anything*** from the menu.
- c. You may invite ***anybody*** to dinner, I don't mind.

## GRADED QUANTIFIERS

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

### INCREASE From 0% to 100%

With plural countable nouns:

**many**                      **more**                      **most**

With uncountable nouns:

**much**                      **more**                      **most**

### DECREASE From 100% to 0%

With plural countable nouns:

**few**                      **fewer**                      **fewest**

With uncountable nouns:

**little**                      **less**                      **least**

Examples:

- There are *many* people in England, *more* in India, but the *most* people live in 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 2,000.
- She had *less* time to study than Paul but had better results.
- Give that dog the *least* opportunity and it will bite you.

## ENOUGH + NOUN

*Enough* is placed before the noun, to indicate the quantity required or necessary:

- There is *enough* bread for lunch.
- She has *enough* money.

*Enough* is also used with adjectives and adverbs - see these sections.

- We didn't have *enough* time to visit London Bridge.
- Are there *enough* eggs to make an omelette?
- Richard has *enough* talent to become a singing star.

## EXERCISES

### EXERCISE 1.

*Complete the sentences by putting some or any into each gap.*

1. Have you got .....brothers or sisters?
2. We don't need .....butter.
1. There are .....books on the table.
2. I want .....flour because I'm going to bake a cake.
3. Is there .....petrol in the car?
4. There's .....salt, but there isn't .....pepper.
5. I haven't got .....compact discs.
6. Can I have .....cereal?
7. Is there .....fruit in the fridge?
8. Would you like .....chocolate cake?
9. Have we got .....stamps?
10. I'd like .....mineral water.
11. I don't eat .....cakes. I'm on a diet.
12. I'd like an omelette. Have we got .....eggs?
13. Can I have .....more milk, please?



## ADVERBS MUCH AND MANY

### EXERCISE 1.

*Complete the questions with **How much...?** or **How many...?***

*Eg. How much homework do you get?*

\_\_\_\_\_ English books do you have?

\_\_\_\_\_ does a cup of coffee cost?

\_\_\_\_\_ languages do you speak?

\_\_\_\_\_ people are there in your family?

\_\_\_\_\_ weeks' holiday do you have in summer?

\_\_\_\_\_ coffee do you drink a day?

## MUCH/MANY

### EXERCISE 1.

*Complete the sentences by using the words in brackets.*

We use *much* with singular (uncountable) nouns and *many* with plurals. Much and many are most common in questions and negatives.

*e.g. How many people will be there? How much information do you have?*

1. How \_\_\_\_\_ time have we got?
2. How \_\_\_\_\_ tickets do we need?
3. There are too \_\_\_\_\_ people here.
4. I love you so \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. I don't know \_\_\_\_\_ poems.
6. Not \_\_\_\_\_ people understand his ideas.
7. How \_\_\_\_\_ milk is there?
8. How \_\_\_\_\_ chairs are there?
9. Did you drink \_\_\_\_\_ beer last night.
10. Are there \_\_\_\_\_ opera houses in London?

## EXERCISE 2.

*Look at the words in the box. Using these words write at least five sentences about yourself.*

*Example: I haven't got many cousins*

*Have you got much time?*

books	problems	ideas	apples	nice
clothes	free time	chocolate		

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

## SOME/ANY

### EXERCISE 1.

*Complete the sentences using some or any.*

We use *some* mostly in affirmative sentences. We use *any* instead of *some* in negative and interrogative sentences.

*e.g. I have some bread. I haven't got any bread.*

*Do you have any bread?*

1. She's got \_\_\_\_\_ interesting ideas.
2. There' \_\_\_\_\_ mud on the carpet.
3. Do you know \_\_\_\_\_ good jokes?
4. He hasn't got \_\_\_\_\_ money.
5. I can't find \_\_\_\_\_ bananas.
6. Laura has got \_\_\_\_\_ old pictures to show us.
7. There aren't \_\_\_\_\_ buses on Sunday.
8. I cant find \_\_\_\_\_ butter, but we've got \_\_\_\_\_ margarine.
9. Virginia has got \_\_\_\_\_ beautiful jewellery.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ of Virginia's friends were at the party last night.

## EXERCISE 2.

*Choose the right word.*

1. Have you got (some/any) free time on Friday?
2. I've just made (some/any) coffee.
3. I haven't done (some/any) revision for the exam – I know I'll fail.
4. Has Eve got (some/any) brothers and sisters, do you know?
5. Sarah has got (some/any) beautiful jewellery but she never wears it.

## SOME-ALL-NONE OF

### EXERCISE 1.

*Complete the sentences by using the correct form.*

some	
any	none

*e.g. Some of the guests at the party were really funny.*

1. I haven't received \_\_\_\_\_ news from my French friend yet.
2. Have you got \_\_\_\_\_ good news?  
No, I haven't got \_\_\_\_\_.
3. My mum usually gives me \_\_\_\_\_ good advice.



4. \_\_\_\_\_ of us left you a message on the answering machine.
5. There haven't been \_\_\_\_\_ elections since 1995.
6. She didn't buy \_\_\_\_\_ dresses because \_\_\_\_\_ of them fitted her.
7. Can I have some more sugar ,please?  
I'm sorry, there isn't \_\_\_\_\_ left.

## EXERCISE 2

***Complete the sentences by using all or none.***

*e.g. We were all tired last night.*

1. These clothes are \_\_\_\_\_ very dirty.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ of the passengers had fastened their seat-belts.
3. When we were children, we \_\_\_\_\_ used to play football in that place.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ the passengers were asked to pass through the metal detector.
5. Don't think you can get \_\_\_\_\_ you want in life.
6. We need a technician to fix the computer : \_\_\_\_\_ of us can do it.
7. Here are \_\_\_\_\_ the best books I have.

## MUCH/MANY/A LOT OF/VERY

### EXERCISE 1.

*Fill in the blanks with the correct form.*

1. He had got \_\_\_\_\_ books to read.
2. Are there \_\_\_\_\_ envelopes in the drawer?
3. Lucia can speak Danish \_\_\_\_\_ well.
4. Are you studying \_\_\_\_\_ for your next exam?
5. They do not drink \_\_\_\_\_ alcohol at the weekend.
6. She does not earn \_\_\_\_\_ money with that new job.
7. Susan will receive \_\_\_\_\_ presents for her birthday.
8. My father smokes \_\_\_\_\_.

## QUIZ

1. ....students are in the class

- How many of
- How many

2. I don't have .....about the Internet

- Much knowledge
- Many knowledge

3. Can you give me.....information?

- A little
- A few

4. Wow, what a large.....of money!

- Number
- Amount



5. ....time do you have?

- How many
- How much

6. I need.....things for my new house

- A few
- Little

7. I like to take .....photos

- Much
- Many

8. Dave wants to have.....children

- Much
- Many