

Unit 57: QUANTITY

We can use

any	all	every	a few	a little	a lot of	lots of
many	most	much	no	none of	some	

to talk about how much or how many of a noun.

When we are talking about quantity, we can talk about number (general quantity) or we can talk about percentage (how much or how many of something).

1 Number

a zero quantity

There weren't **any** people in the street.

We didn't go **anywhere** last night.

There were **no** people outside. no = not any

The book was **no** help to me at all.

There was **nothing** we could do about it.

NOTICE: nothing = no thing nowhere = no place
 nobody / no one = no person

b small quantity

PLURAL NOUNS

a few people

not many students

MASS NOUNS (Unit 47)

a little time

not much advice

c large quantity

There was **lots of** coffee in the shop.

There were **a lot of** people in the street.

NOTICE: We can also use **many** and **much**. For example: I have had **many** problems, but usually only in writing.

2 Percentage

We can use all the words that we can use for number. For example:

I didn't see **any of** the hockey game. I was too busy.

Only **a few of** the students passed the exam.

Many of them didn't have time to finish it.

Notice that we often use **of** after the quantity-word to introduce what we are talking about.

We also use:

a none of (zero)

None of the students passed the exam.

I didn't like the film. **None of** it was any good.

NOTICE: We cannot say *no of*.

b some / some of (more than zero, but less than half)

The exam was very difficult but **some** students did quite well.

I liked the film but **some of** the acting was bad.

c most / most of (more than half, but less than 100 per cent)

Most people hate going to the dentist.

The exam was very hard. **Most of us** failed.

d all / all of (100 per cent)

All the buses from here go to the station.

The exam was easy. **All of** us passed.

3 Every and any

These words go with singular nouns. We can also use them with **one / body / thing / where**.

a every (all) = ■ and ■ and ■ and ■

Come and see me **every** day next week.

See me seven times.

I've been **everywhere** in Europe.

To all places.

Everyone passed the exam.

All the students.

b any = ■ or ■ or ■ or ■

Come and see me **any** day next week.

Come one day – it doesn't matter which one.

You can go **anywhere** in Europe with this ticket.

You can choose where to go.

Anyone can pass that exam.

It is very easy.

You can take **any** bus from here to the station.

They all go to the station, so it doesn't matter which one you take.

NOTICE: We use **both**, **either** and **neither** for two of something (Unit 58).

NOTICE: Appendix 9 tells you about numbers in English.