University of Bejaia

Department of Sociology

Module: English

2nd year students

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Quantifiers

What are quantifiers?

A quantifier is a word or phrase which is used before a noun to indicate the amount or quantity:

'Some', 'many', 'a lot of' and 'a few', much, little, a little... are examples of quantifiers.

Quantifiers can be used with both countable and uncountable nouns.

Examples:

There are **some** books on the desk He's got only **a few** dollars. How **much** money have you got? There is **a large quantity of** fish in this river. He's got **more** friends than his sister.

Countable nouns	Uncountable nouns	With both	
 Many a few/few/very few ** a number (of) several a large number of a great number of a majority of 	 much a little/little/very little a bit (of) a great deal of a large amount of a large quantity of 	 all enough more/most less/least no/none not any some any a lot of lots of plenty of 	

NOTE: little, very little mean that there is not enough of something.

a little means that there is not a lot of something, but there is enough.

few, very few mean that there is not enough of something.a few means that there is not a lot of something, but there is enough.

QUANTIFIERS

Quantifier	Use	Example There are a few pupils in The library. The child has few toys I like a little sugar in my tea. There is very little milk left.		
A few	With count nouns(positive meaning) With count nouns(negative meaning=not many)			
A little	With non-count nouns(positive meaning) With non-count nouns(negative meaning=not much)			
Much Many	With non-count nouns With count nouns	I don't have much money, She has many friends.		
Some Someone, somebody Something, somewhere	Used with affirmative sentences with count and non-count nouns and in polite questions, offers and requests	We have some computer games. I'd like something to drink. Do you want some salad?		
Any Anyone, anybody Anything, anywhere 1.in negative sentence 2.in questions 3. no specific preference 4 with sentences that include a negative word		We couldn't find anywhere to eat. Is anyone using the computer? Please bring me any soup on the menu. I never see anyone in this house.		
No No one, nobody Nothing, nowhere	No is used with count and non-count nouns No one, nobody and are used with singular nouns nothing	No children are allowed here. There is no food in the house. No one is interested.		
Every Everyone, everybody Everything, everywhere	Every is used with singular count nouns These words are used with singular verb	Every notebook is checked by the teacher. Everyone has arrived.		

Exercise 01: fill in the gaps with an appropriate quantifier: some, any, much, many, a lot of, a little, a few

- 1. There aren't.....car parks in the centre of Oxford.
- 2. Eating out is expensive here. There aren't.....cheap restaurants.

3.	Liverpool hasof great nightclubs.						
4.	Hurry up! We only havetime before the coach leaves.						
5.	We sawbeautiful scenery when we went to Austria.						
6.	There are ashops near the university.						
7.	It's very quiet. There aren'tpeople here today.						
8.	There areexpensive new flats next to the river.						
Correc	tion :	1.many	2.any	3.	A lot	4. A little	

5. some 6.few 7.many 8. Some