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Like all determiners, **quantifiers** are words that precede and modify [nouns](#). They tell us *how many* or *how much*.



via <https://www.test-english.com/grammar-points/b1/much-many-lot-little-no/>

Selecting the correct quantifier depends on whether a countable or a non-countable noun is used. We use certain quantifiers before [countable](#) nouns (things that can be counted), and we use other quantifiers before [uncountable](#) nouns (things that cannot be counted).

We do not add 's' to uncountable nouns to make them plural.

Quantifiers as determiners

Many/much

We use 'many' before *countable* nouns and we use 'much' before *uncountable* nouns. These quantifiers can be used in affirmative, negative sentences and questions.

- *We don't have **much** time left.*

- How **many** rings do you have?
- There are **many** offices in this building.

We can use them with 'too much' and 'too many' in affirmative sentences.

- I put **too much** pepper on my potatoes.
- We have **too many** chairs setup.

Not many/not much

'Many' and 'much' can also be used in the negative with 'not'.

- There are **not many** people here.
- There's **not much** stuff to do around here.

Hardly any

'Hardly any' means *very few, almost none*. It is similar to 'not many', except 'hardly any' can be used with countable and uncountable nouns. It is used in affirmative statements.

- There are **hardly any** crackers left.
- She ate **hardly any** food when she was here.

(A) few/(a) little

We use '(a) few' before *countable* nouns and '(a) little' before *uncountable* nouns.

We can use these quantifiers in affirmative and negative sentences, as well as interrogative sentences.

- May I have **a few** cookies for my snack?
- I have received very **little** information about the job.

'A few' means *some, not many, enough*.

'Few' (without a) means *not enough, almost none*.

'A little' means *some, a small amount*.

'Little' (without a) means *very little, almost none*.

- *We only have **a few** eggs left.* (enough but not a lot)
- *We have very **few** sodas left; we need to buy more.* (not enough, almost none)
- *I have **little** knowledge on the subject.* (a very small amount, almost none)
- *I have **a little** knowledge on the subject.* (some, not much)

We can use an article, demonstrative or possessive after '*(a) few*' if it is quantifying something specific.

- ***A few** of those toys belong to me.*
- ***Few** of my flowers bloomed this year.*
- ***A few** of the boys went hunting.*

A lot of/lots of

We use '*a lot of*' or '*lots of*' before *both* countable and uncountable nouns. We usually use these quantifiers in positive sentences.

- *I had **a lot of** fun on the weekend.*
- *We ate **lots of** chocolate bars at the movie.*

*Lots of is more informal.

Some/any

We can use '*some*' in affirmative sentences and interrogatives though it is most often used in *affirmative* statements.

We use '*any*' in *negative* statements and *questions*.

- *She has **some** messages for you.*
- *Can I ask you **some** questions?*
- *Is there **any** salt in this container?*
- *I don't have **any** books with me.*

Both '*some*' and '*any*' can be used with countable *and* uncountable nouns. We must use the plural form when '*some*' and '*any*' come before a countable noun.

- *Are there **any** raisins in it?*
- *I just saw **some** dogs running through the woods.*

'Any' can also be used in the negative with 'not'.

- They did *not* have **any** decorations.
- There aren't **any** people here yet.

No/none of

We can use 'no' and 'none of' with both countable *and* uncountable nouns. 'No' is used in affirmative sentences.

- **None of** us wanted to tell the truth.
- I have **no** money.
- **None of** the information is valid.
- There are **no** coins in her bag.

All of/most of

'All of' and 'most of' can be used with *both* countable and uncountable nouns. We can use an article (the), demonstrative (this, that), and possessive pronoun (my, your) with 'all of' and 'most of' if it refers to something or someone specific.

- The dog ate **all of** the food. (nothing is left)
- They destroyed **most of** the documents. (a few remain; not all but the majority)

Here's a depiction of how quantifiers are used with countable and uncountable nouns:



via elt-els.com

Quantifiers as pronouns

Some quantifiers can function as pronouns when the noun is *known* or *obvious*.

Many/much

- Yes, you can have chips for a snack. But, don't eat too **many**. ('many' refers to 'chips')
- Do you need money? Yes, because I don't have **much**. ('much' refers to 'money')

Again, we use 'many' to refer to *countable* nouns and 'much' to refer to *uncountable* nouns.

A lot/lots

- *Look at the food! I am going to eat **a lot**!*
- *I have not finished my homework, yet. I still have **lots** to do.*
- *My mom made cookies, and I want **lots / a lot**.*
- *Did you find the right information? Yes, I did, and there is **a lot**.*

'Lots' is more informal. We can use 'lots' and 'a lot' to refer to *both* countable and uncountable nouns.

Some/any/most

- *I want a piece. Is there **any** left?*
- *Did you have cake? Yes, I had **some**.*
- *No one would even try this. Actually, **some** have done it.*
- *You can talk to the students, but **most** have already left.*

We can use 'some' and 'any' to refer to *both* countable and uncountable nouns. We use 'most' to refer to *countable* nouns.

Hardly any/not many/not much

- *The students know the due date is close, but **not many** have even started the assignment, yet. ('not many' refers to 'students')*
- *Coffee? Hurry, there's **not much** left. ('not much' refers to 'coffee')*
- *I wanted one of those pens, but there are **hardly any** left.*

We can use 'not many' to refer to *countable* nouns, 'not much' to *uncountable* nouns, and 'hardly any' to *both* countable and uncountable nouns.

All/none

- *Sorry, I already did it **all**.*
- *Do you have honey? No, sorry, **none**. ('none' refers to 'honey')*

(A) few/(a) little

- ***Little** is known about his childhood. (not much, almost nothing)*
- *Tea anyone? Yes, I would like **a little**. (a small amount)*
- ***A few** have done it before. (not many but some)*

- **Few** *have dared to trespass on that property.* (almost none)

Note: A singular pronoun takes a singular verb, i.e.: much/little + has.

A plural pronoun takes a plural verb, i.e., few/many + have.

Here's a video from AMES836 explaining usage of quantifiers:

Read more on the topic:

[Pronouns and Determiners: Other, Others, the Other\(s\) or Another](#)

[Possession: Determiners, Pronouns, Apostrophe 's](#)

[Pronouns and Determiners: Each, Every, Either, Neither, Both, Half, All](#)