

**all**<sup>1</sup> S1 W1

/ɔ:l \$ ɒ:l/

determiner, predeterminer, pronoun

**1** COMPLETE the whole of an amount, thing, or type of thing:

*Have you done all your homework?*

**all your life/all day/all year etc** (= during the whole of your life, a day, a year etc)

*He had worked all his life in the mine.*

*The boys played video games all day.*

*They were quarrelling **all the time*** (= very often or continuously) .

*Hannah didn't say a single word **all the way** back home* (= during the whole of the journey) .

**all of**

*Almost all of the music was from Italian operas.*

*I've heard it all before.*

*She'd given up all hope of having a child.*

**2** ALL/EVERYTHING every one of a number of people or things, or every thing or person of a particular type:

*Someone's taken all my books!*

*Will all the girls please stand over here.*

*All children should be taught to swim.*

*16 per cent of all new cars sold in Western Europe these days are diesel-engined.*

*They all speak excellent English.*

**all of**

*important changes that will affect all of us*

**3** the only thing or things:

*All you need is a hammer and some nails.*

*All I'm asking for is a little respect.*

**4** (formal) everything:

*I'm doing all I can to help her.*

*I hope all is well with you.*

*All was dark and silent down by the harbour wall.*

**5** used to emphasize that you mean the greatest possible amount of the quality you are mentioning:

*Can any of us say in all honesty that we did everything we could?*

**6 at all**

used in negative statements and questions to emphasize what you are saying:

*They've done nothing at all to try and put the problem right.*

*He's not looking at all well.*

*'Do you mind if I stay a little longer?' 'No, not at all.'*

*Has the situation improved at all?*

**7 all sorts/kinds/types of something**

many different kinds of something:

*Social workers have to deal with all kinds of problems.*

**8 of all people/things/places etc**

used to emphasize that your statement is true of one particular person, thing, or place more than any other:

*You shouldn't have done it. You of all people should know that.*

*She did not want to quarrel with Maria today, of all days.*

**9 all in all**

used to show that you are considering every part of a situation:

*All in all, it had been one of the most miserable days of Henry's life.*

## **10 for all something**

in spite of a particular fact:

*For all his faults, he's a kind-hearted old soul.*

*For all my love of landscape, nothing could persuade me to spend another day in the Highlands.*

## **11 in all**

including every thing or person:

*In all, there were 215 candidates.*

*We received £1,550 in cash and promises of another £650, making £2,200 in all.*

## **12 and all**

a)

including the thing or things just mentioned:

*They ate the whole fish – head, bones, tail, and all.*

b) (spoken) (informal)

used to emphasize a remark that you have just added:

*And you can take that smelly old coat out of here, and all!*

## **13 all of 50p/20 minutes etc (spoken)**

used to emphasize how large or small an amount actually is:

*The game lasted all of 58 seconds.*

*The repairs are going to cost all of £15,000.*

## **14 it's all or nothing**

used to say that unless something is done completely, it is not acceptable:

*Half-heartedness won't do – it's got to be all or nothing.*

## **15 give your all**

to make the greatest possible effort in order to achieve something:

*The coach expects every player to give their all in every game.*

## **16 it was all I could do to do something**

used to say that you only just succeeded in doing something:

*It was all I could do to stop them hitting each other.*

### **17 when all's said and done** (spoken)

used to remind someone about an important point that needs to be considered:

*When all's said and done, he's only a kid.*

- **for all somebody cares** AT CARE<sup>2</sup> (8) ,
- **for all somebody knows** AT KNOW<sup>1</sup> (33) ,
- **all and sundry** AT SUNDRY (1) ,
- **after all** AT AFTER<sup>1</sup> (13)

## Grammar

Use a singular verb after **all** when you are using an uncountable or singular noun:

*All the food is prepared in advance.*

Use a plural verb when you are using a plural noun:

*All the windows have locks.*

If you are referring to a specific group or thing, use **all (of)** before 'the', 'my', 'these' etc:

*All the money (NOT The all money) had been spent.*

*All of my friends were girls.*

If you are referring to a type of person or thing, use **all** directly before an uncountable noun or plural noun:

*All reptiles have scaly skin.*

If you are saying that something happened continuously, use **all** directly before 'day', 'week' etc:

*It rained all day yesterday.*

When **all** follows a pronoun or noun referring to a group, it should come after the first auxiliary if there is one:

*This is something in which we can all be involved (NOT we all can be involved).*

It comes after a simple tense of 'be':

*They are all lawyers.*

### **all, whole**

With a singular noun, it is possible to use **whole** instead of **all**:

*a war that could destroy the whole planet*

