

all²

S1 W1

adverb

1 COMPLETELY [always + adjective/adverb/preposition] completely:

You shouldn't be sitting here by yourself, all alone.

a strange woman, dressed all in black

*If people want more freedom of choice, then I'm **all for** it (= I strongly support it).*

*'It was a dreadful experience.' 'Never mind, it's **all over** (= completely finished) now.'*

2 all over (something)

a) EVERYWHERE

everywhere on an object or surface:

There were bits of paper all over the floor.

He has cuts all over his legs.

She ached all over (= her whole body ached).

b) EVERYWHERE

everywhere in a place:

Antique clocks from all over the world are on display.

People came from all over the country.

They're putting up new offices all over the place.

3 all the better/easier/more etc VERY

used to emphasize how much better, easier etc something is than it would be in a different situation:

Clayton's achievement is all the more remarkable when you consider his poor performance last season.

The job was made all the easier by having the proper tools.

4 all but ALMOST

almost completely:

Britain's coal industry has all but disappeared.

His left arm was all but useless.

5 all too TOO/TOO MUCH

used to mean 'very' when talking about a bad situation:

All too often it's the mother who gets blamed for her children's behaviour.

In these conditions it was all too easy to make mistakes.

6 all along (informal) ALL THE TIME

all the time from the beginning while something was happening:

Chapman had known all along that the plan wouldn't work.

We had to admit that Dad had been right all along.

7 all round (BrE), **all around** (AmE)

a)

used to say that you are describing the general quality or effect of something:

All round it's not a bad car.

It was a nasty business all round.

b)

from everyone, for everyone, or involving everyone:

There were smiles all round.

He paid for drinks all round.

8 one-all/two-all etc

used when giving the score of a game in which both players or teams have scored the same number of points:

The game ended one-all.

9 all told TOTAL

including everything or everyone:

a project costing £10,000, all told

10 it's all up (with somebody) (informal) (BrE) FINISH/COME TO AN END

used to say that someone's success or happiness has ended:

If someone tells the police, then it'll be all up with me.

11 be not all there (informal) STUPID/NOT INTELLIGENT

someone who is not all there seems stupid or slightly crazy

12 be all smiles/innocence/sweetness etc

to be showing a lot of a particular quality or type of behaviour:

The mayor and mayoress were all smiles and kisses during the grand ceremony.

13 be all over somebody (informal)

to be trying to kiss someone and touch them, especially in a sexual way:

Before I could speak, he was all over me.

SPOKEN PHRASES

14 very:

You're getting me all confused.

15 that's somebody all over TYPICAL

used to say that a particular way of behaving is typical of someone:

He was late of course, but that's Tim all over!

16 be all in (BrE)

to be very tired

17 somebody was all... (AmE)

used to report what someone said or did, when telling a story:

He drove me home, and he was all, 'I love this car... it's like a rocket.'

18 not all that VERY

not very:

It doesn't sound all that good, does it?

I don't think it matters all that much.

19 somebody/something is not all that

used to say that someone or something is not very attractive or desirable:

I don't know why you keep chasing her around. She's not

