

money’ with *garia ugari* ‘wheat in abundance’, *saria urri* ‘reward in scantiness’, *dirua eskas* ‘money in shortage’.

To our main list of quantifiers we should add all words meaning ‘so many’, ‘so much’: *hainbeste*, *horrenbeste*, *honenbeste*, *hainbat*, *horrenbat*, *honenbat*—for example, *hainbeste andreri* or *hainbat andreri* ‘to so many ladies’; *hainbeste nekerekin* or *hainbat nekerekin* ‘with so much effort’; *hainbeste aldiz* or *hainbat aldiz* ‘so many times’.

Basque has several terms for plural ‘some’; the most common one being *batzuk*, declined as a definite plural: *batzuk*, *batzuek*, *batzuen*, *batzuei*, *batzuekin*, *batzuez*.

A more elevated style of Batua has borrowed indefinite *batzu* from the northern dialects; this is declined *batzu*, *batzuk*, *batzuren*, *batzuri*, *batzurekin*, *batzuz*.

Only slightly less common than *batzuk*, *zenbait* invariably renders its noun phrase indefinite. When used inside a larger noun phrase, *batzuk* and *batzu* always follow the noun or adjective, while *zenbait* usually precedes the noun:

etxe handi batzuk (batzu), zenbait etxe handi	some big houses
etxe handi batzuei (batzuri), zenbait etxe handiri	to some big houses
etxe handi batzuekin (batzurekin), zenbait etxe handirekin	with some big houses
etxe handi batzuentzat (batzurentzat), zenbait etxe handirentzat	for some big houses

Although interchangeable in many contexts, *batzuk* and *zenbait* are not quite synonymous. When *some* might be replaced by *a few* in English, *batzuk* is used; when *some* might be replaced by *certain*, *zenbait*.

Both terms can be used substantively to refer to persons as well as to things. In this use their semantic difference is most noticeable: *batzuk*: ‘some’, ‘a few’, ‘some people’, ‘a few people’; *zenbait*: ‘some’, ‘certain’, ‘some people’, ‘certain people’—for example, *batzuen etxeak* ‘a few people’s houses’; *zenbaiten etxeak* ‘certain people’s houses’.

[*N.B.* Noun phrases with *batzuk* take plural verb forms; noun phrases with *zenbait* take singular or plural.]

9. In a genitive noun phrase followed by *bat* or *batzu(k)*. This construction, translatable by the English expression *some . . . or other*, emphasizes the indefinite character of the genitized noun phrase:

katuren bat	some cat or other
hotsen bat	some sound or other
nagusiren batzuk	some bosses or other
alkate gazteren batzuk	some young mayors or other

With cardinal numbers this construction is quite common:

zortziren bat sorgin	eight or so witches
hogeiren bat urte	twenty or so years

The reader may recall here a shorter alternative involving nominalized numerals: *zortzi bat sorgin*, *hogei bat urte* (see observation 13 of section 2.1.1). This alternative is not available for *bat*—a pronoun more than a numeral—in the current expression *baten bat* ‘someone or other’, ‘something or other’. There is also a plural form *batzuren batzu(k)* ‘some persons or other’, ‘some specimens or other’, although the spoken language prefers *baten batzuk*.

10. With certain bare nouns accompanying the verbs *izan* ‘to be’ (see section 7.5), **edun* ‘to have’ (see section 13.4.2), *egin* ‘to do’, ‘to make’ (see section 13.3), *eman* ‘to give’ (see section 15.6.6), and *hartu* ‘to take’, ‘to receive’ (see section 13.4.1).

Which nouns enter this construction is a largely unpredictable, hence lexical, matter. These noun-verb combinations are usually translatable by a single verb in English. As numerous instances are given in the chapters cited, a small sample will do here:

With the verb *izan* ‘to be’: *beldur izan* ‘to be afraid’, from *beldur* ‘fear’; *bizi izan* ‘to live’, from *bizi* ‘life’.

With the verb **edun* ‘to have’: *nahi *edun* ‘to want’, from *nahi* ‘will’; *uste *edun* ‘to think (so)’, from *uste* ‘opinion’.

With the verb *egin* ‘to do’, ‘to make’: *barre egin* ‘to laugh’, from *barre* ‘laughter’; *lan egin* ‘to work’, from *lan* ‘work’.

With the verb *eman* ‘to give’: *hitz eman* ‘to promise’, from *hitz* ‘word’; *musu eman* ‘to kiss’, from *musu* ‘kiss’.

With the verb *hartu* ‘to take’, ‘to receive’: *min hartu* ‘to be hurt’, from *min* ‘pain’; *su hartu* ‘to catch fire’, from *su* ‘fire’.

It is tempting here to speak of incorporation of the noun into the verb, as this would account for the restriction to bare nouns—nouns without any modifier or determiner. The objection that the noun and the verb need not be adjacent in surface structure is by no means fatal; witness the verb-particle combinations in English, or, better still, the separable verb prefixes in German.

11. In noun phrases functioning as subject complements or object complements. Noun phrases indicating an office, title, or function frequently serve as subject or object complements, which, in Basque, admit no determiner of any kind. Examples are

morroi joan	to go into service as a farmhand
neskame sartu	to enter service as a maid
apaiz egon	to serve (in some area) as a priest
lehendakari izendatu	to designate as president
lagun eraman	to take along as a companion

12. In predicate adjectives with an impersonal or sentential subject. For examples see section 18.2.2.