

All, every and whole

A All and everybody/everyone

We do not normally use **all** to mean **everybody/everyone**:

- ☐ **Everybody** had a great time at the party. (*not* All enjoyed)

But we say **all of us** / **all of you** / **all of them**:

- ☐ **All of us** had a great time at the party. (*not* Everybody of us)

B All and everything

Sometimes you can use **all** or **everything**:

- ☐ I'll do **all I can** to help. *or* I'll do **everything I can** to help.

You can say 'all I can' / 'all you need' etc., but we do not normally use **all alone**:

- ☐ He thinks he knows **everything**. (*not* he knows all)
☐ Our holiday was a disaster. **Everything** went wrong. (*not* All went wrong)

But you can say **all about**:

- ☐ He knows **all about** computers.

We also use **all** (*not* everything) to mean 'the only thing(s)':

- ☐ **All** I've eaten today is a sandwich. (= the only thing I've eaten today)

C Every / everybody / everyone / everything are *singular* words, so we use a *singular* verb:

- ☐ **Every seat** in the theatre **was** taken.
☐ **Everybody has** arrived. (*not* have arrived)

But we use **they/them/their** after **everybody/everyone**:

- ☐ **Everybody** said **they** enjoyed **themselves**. (= everybody enjoyed himself or herself)

D Whole and all

Whole = complete, entire. Most often we use **whole** with *singular* nouns:

- ☐ Did you read **the whole book**? (= all the book, not just a part of it)
☐ Emily has lived **her whole life** in the same town.
☐ I was so hungry, I ate **a whole packet** of biscuits. (= a complete packet)

We use **the/my/her** etc. before **whole**. Compare **whole** and **all**:

her whole life *but* **all her life**

We do not normally use **whole** with *uncountable* nouns. We say:

- ☐ I've spent **all the money** you gave me. (*not* the whole money)

E Every/all/whole with time words

We use **every** to say how often something happens (**every day** / **every Monday** / **every ten minutes** / **every three weeks** etc.):

- ☐ When we were on holiday, we went to the beach **every day**. (*not* all days)
☐ The bus service is excellent. There's a bus **every ten minutes**.
☐ We don't see each other very often – about **every six months**.

All day / **the whole day** = the complete day from beginning to end:

- ☐ We spent **all day** / **the whole day** on the beach.
☐ Dan was very quiet. He didn't say a word **all evening** / **the whole evening**.

Note that we say **all day** (*not* all the day), **all week** (*not* all the week) etc.

Compare **all the time** and **every time**:

- ☐ They never go out. They are at home **all the time**. (= always, continuously)
☐ **Every time** I see you, you look different. (= each time, on every occasion)