

GRAMMAR

Quantifiers

LEVEL

Intermediate (B1)

NUMBER

EN_B1_1082G

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can explain the difference between countable and uncountable nouns and give examples.
- I can accurately select the correct quantifier for a range of straightforward sentences.



Warm-up

Choose one question to discuss in pairs **in breakout rooms** or **in the main class**.

(If using breakout rooms, **share** one thing you found out about your partner with the rest of the group.)

- 1 Who do you live with? When did you start living with them?
- 2 When did you move out of your parents' home? At what age do people usually move out of their parents' home in your country?
- 3 What are some pros of living with parents or family members? What are some cons?





Reading

Read the **dialogue** below between Sam and Antonio. **Answer the questions** in the red box.

Sam: So, I heard you're finally moving out! Congratulations, mate! Are you excited?

Antonio: Yes, I can't wait! I'm turning 28 soon, so it's about time. I guess for Spain it's still quite early, though. Most Spaniards live at home until they get married and can afford to move out.

Sam: Really? Almost all of my friends here in the UK live alone or with a partner. In fact, several of them left home when they were 18 and hardly any have moved back since then.



1. What are Sam and Antonio talking about?
2. Where is Sam from?
3. Do many of Sam's friends live with their parents?



Reading

Read the **dialogue** below between Sam and Antonio. **Answer the questions** in the red box.

Antonio: Things are very different here! My parents also *want* me to stay with them. They're like: *but, why move out? We've got plenty of room here! If you move out, you'll have no time to come and see us, either!*

Sam: It just shows that they care about you! Stand your ground. You're making the right decision. Of course, they will miss you a lot at first, but they also know that you need your independence.



4. How do Antonio's parents feel about his decision to move out?
5. What advice does Sam give to Antonio?



Stand your ground.
It's the right decision.

In the dialogue you have just read, Sam uses the phrase highlighted in purple.

Have you heard it before?

Can you think of a situation when you might use it?

Review: countable and uncountable nouns

Before we look at quantifiers, let's review countable and uncountable nouns. **Read the sentences** and **answer the questions** in the blue box.

My parents gave me **money** to help me pay my rent.
I stayed in short-term **accommodation** while I searched for a house.
There are five **bedrooms** in our apartment.
The **hotels** by the beach are very expensive.

- Look at the **nouns** highlighted in blue.
- Which sentences use an **uncountable** noun?
- Which sentences use a **countable** noun?
- What's the difference between a countable and uncountable noun?



Review: countable and uncountable nouns

Categorise the statements about countable and uncountable nouns.

1

These nouns have a singular and plural form (table – tables)

2

We often use these nouns to describe abstract concepts (advice, success)

3

Some of these nouns have irregular plurals (man – men, child – children)

4

These nouns only have one form (information, furniture, money)

5

We often use these nouns to describe things which are difficult to count (water, flour, grass)

Countable nouns

Uncountable nouns

Quantifiers: *plenty of* and *no*

Read the sentences below and answer the questions in the blue box.

Why move out? There are **plenty of** rooms free in our house.
I've got **plenty of** work to do today!

There are **no** nice houses in this area at all.
You'll have **no** time to come and see us!

- We use quantifiers to **describe the amount** of something. Look at the quantifiers highlighted in blue. Which **nouns** do they refer to?
- Which one means the same as **as much** or **as many as you need**?
- Which one means the same as **zero**?
- Do we use these quantifiers with countable or uncountable nouns, or both?





What is something...

**...you need plenty of
when you move to a
new house?**



**...no parent likes to
hear?**

Quantifiers: *several* and *hardly any*

Read the example sentences below and answer the questions in the blue boxes.

Several different families have lived in this house.

This house has **several** entrances.

Hardly any English people still live with their parents at 30.

Honestly, it'll take **hardly any** time at all!

- Look at sentences 1 and 2. What does **several** mean?
- Do we use it with **countable or uncountable** nouns?

- Look at sentences 3 and 4. What does **hardly any** mean?
- Can you think of any **other quantifiers** with a similar meaning?
- Do we use **hardly any** with uncountable or countable nouns, or both?



Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences below with *several* or *hardly any*.

- 1 I have _____ time today. So let's try to keep it short and sweet.
- 2 I have _____ houses. One in Atlanta, one in L.A. and another in Chicago.
- 3 I've always wanted to have _____ children. It's my dream to be part of a big family.
- 4 So you think being a parent is _____ work? It's a full-time job!
- 5 _____ kids are well-behaved until they reach the age of five or six.



Quantifiers: *most* and *all*

Read the sentences below and **answer the questions** in the blue box.

Most Spaniards live at home until they get married or move out.

All parents worry about their kids, even when they've grown up!

- Which quantifier means **more than half** or **almost the whole amount**?
- Which quantifier means the **whole amount** or the **whole number**?



Quantifiers + possessives

Read the sentences below and answer the questions in the blue box.

Most Spaniards live at home with their parents.

Hardly any young people in the UK live at home after university.

Most of his friends are still living at home with their parents.

Hardly any of Sam's friends live with their parents.

- Compare the sentences. Which refer to a **general** group of people? Which refer to a **specific** group of people?
- We can use the following structure to describe a specific group of people or things:

quantifier + of + possessive (adjective) + noun





What is something...

...all children struggle to do when they are little?

...your English teacher told all of their students to do?

...most families spend a lot of money on?

...most of your family members think is important?



Discuss

Can you think of a job that several of your friends have?



Can you name a language that hardly any of your friends speak?




Discuss

Were you nervous or excited about moving out of your childhood house?



How did your family react when you decided to move out?



End of the lesson

Idiom

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Meaning: Some things are genetic; this idiom is used to say that the characteristics of a person you are talking about came from their family.



Additional practice



Categorise: countable and uncountable nouns



Categorise the following nouns. Are they countable or uncountable?

work

time

children

water

siblings

family
members

space

tasks

food

people

countable

uncountable



Review: *some* or *any*

Fill in the blanks using *some* or *any*.

- 1 I don't have _____ time to go for a walk with my family today.
- 2 Is there _____ way we can finish this project faster?
- 3 I'd like to have _____ time to think about what you just said.
- 4 Can you please give me _____ salad, too?
- 5 We wanted to buy _____ gifts this morning, but we don't have _____ money.



Review: *several* or *hardly any*

Fill in the blanks using *several* or *hardly any*.

- 1 **Your boss says:** We need to do more research about our competitors. So far, we have _____ information about them.
- 2 **Two neighbors talking:** I love books, especially fiction. I have _____ favorites. Do you want to borrow one?
- 3 **After a test you say:** I am afraid I didn't do very well on that test! There were _____ questions that I didn't understand at all!
- 4 **Talking about shopping online:** Buying things is so convenient! You can order exactly what you want. It takes _____ time at all!
- 5 **Talking about old friends:** I have not seen my high school friends for years! _____ of them still live around here.





Match the sentences

Match the sentences on the left with the sentences on the right.

1 I'm really tired.

2 I would really like to hang out.

3 I'm really glad I have many siblings.

4 Why would you like to move out?

5 I don't need many people in my life.

a The thing is, I don't have any time today.

b We like spending lots of time together.

c You've got plenty of space here!

d Is there any way you could come over and play with the kids for a few hours?

e I prefer having a few really close friends.



Review: quantifiers

Categorise the quantifiers below. Which noun can they go with? Time, siblings, or both?

1

much

2

some

3

many

4

plenty of

5

any

6

lots of

7

several

8

most

9

all

10

no

time

siblings

both



Create sentences

Use the prompts below to create sentences.



1 **all** – of – my – parents' friends



2 **most** – of – my – colleagues



3 **several** – houses – in – my area

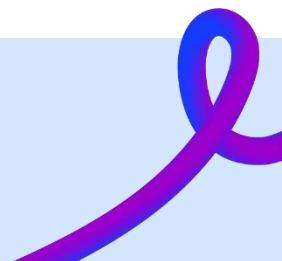


4 **hardly any** – teachers



5 **no** – child







Answer key

P.4

1. Possible answers: They are talking about Antonio's plans to move out of his parents' house; They are discussing what age people usually move out of their parents' homes in Spain and the UK.
2. Sam is from the UK
3. No – hardly any of Sam's friends live with their parents.

P.5

4. Possible answers: They are sad about him moving out; They don't want him to move out.
5. Sam tells Antonio to stand his ground – he is making the right choice.

P.8

Countable: 1, 3 Uncountable: 2, 4, 5

P.12: 1. hardly any 2. several 3. several 4. hardly any 5. hardly any



Answer key

Additional practice:

P.21:

countable: children, siblings, family members, tasks, people

uncountable: work, time, water, space, food

both: time, water, space

P.22: 1: any; 2 any; 3: some; 4: some; 5: some, any

P.23: 1. hardly any 2. several 3. several 4. hardly any 5. Hardly any

P.24: 1d, 2a, 3b, 4c, 5e

P.25: time: much; **siblings:** many, several, most, all; **both:** some, plenty of, lots of, any, no



Summary

When to use quantifiers:

- We use quantifiers when we want to give someone information about the **number or amount** of something.
- We can use quantifiers with both countable and uncountable nouns.

Countable and uncountable nouns:

- **Countable nouns** refer to people, places, and things that **can be counted**.
- **Uncountable nouns** refer to items, qualities, or concepts that **cannot be counted**.

Quantifiers from the lesson:

- plenty of, no, several, hardly any, most, all

Real-life language:

- Just stand your ground



Vocabulary

plenty of

no

several

hardly any

most

all

Stand your ground



Notes

