

Grammar Reference

Quantifiers: all, every, each, both, neither, either

Meaning and use: all, every each

Quantifiers are words that give us information about the number or amount of something. **All**, **every** and **each** mean the whole number of something in a group, but there are differences in how we use them. In this unit we look at how to use them with nouns.

All or **All the** is followed by a plural or uncountable noun. **Every** and **each** are followed by a singular noun.

***All (the) students** have their own rooms.*

***All (the) information** is on the website.*

***Every/Each student** has their own room. (OR has **his/her** own room.)*

Every and **each** can often be used in the same place, but we prefer **every** when we are thinking about the whole number in a group, and **each** when we are thinking about the members of the group as individuals.

*I love **every painting** by that artist.*

***Each painting** is unique.*

For emphasising every single one, we must use **every** not **each**.

*You've eaten **every chocolate** in the box!*

For only two things, we can use **each** but not **every**.

*In baseball, how many players are there in **each team**?*

All and **each** but not **every** can be followed by *of* and a plural noun or pronoun. Notice that **each of** with a plural noun or pronoun is followed by a singular verb.

***All of the students** have their own rooms.*

***Each of them** has their own room.*

Form

With plural noun

All (the) students
All of the students
Each of the students

With plural pronoun

All of them
Each of us

With uncountable noun

All (the) information
All of the information

With singular noun

Every student
Each student

Take note: articles

We don't use an article (**the**, **a/an**) before **every** or **each**.

***Every painting** is unique.*

NOT: *The every painting is unique.*

Take note: possessive and demonstrative adjectives

We don't use **every** before possessive adjectives (**his**, **her**, etc) or demonstrative adjectives (**these**, **those**).

*Tarantino's a brilliant director. I've seen **all his films**.*

NOT: *I've seen every his films.*

Meaning and use of both, neither, either

We use **both (of)**, **neither (of)** and **either (of)** to talk about two people or things. **Both** means this one AND the other. **Neither** means NOT this one AND NOT the other. **Either** means this one OR the other. **Either** is used mainly in questions and negative sentences. Here are some examples of how to use them with nouns:

*I like **both** pictures. / I like **both of** the pictures.*

Neither picture is right for the room. / **Neither of** the pictures is right for the room.

She didn't buy **either** picture in the end. / She didn't buy **either of** the pictures in the end.

We often use **both... and**, **neither... nor**, and **either... or**.

She plays **both** the violin **and** the guitar.

Neither me **nor** my brother are married.

Should I wear **either** this shirt **or** that one?

Form

With plural noun

both pictures

both the/these pictures

both of the/these pictures

neither of the/these pictures

either of the/these pictures

With plural pronoun

both of them

neither of them

either of them

With singular noun

neither picture

either picture

Take note: verbs

After **neither (of)** the verb is always positive. It can be singular or plural after **neither of**.

Neither of these answers **is/are** correct.

But after **neither** + noun the verb is always singular.

Neither answer is correct.

After **both (of)** the verb is always positive and plural. We don't use **both** in negative structures.

Both of these answers **are** wrong.

NOT: Both of these answers are not correct.

