**Quantifiers**

  We use quantifiers when we want to give someone information about the number of something: how much or how many.

Sometimes we use a **quantifier** in the place of a **determiner**:

* Most children start school at the age of five.
* We ate some bread and butter
* We saw lots of birds.

We use these quantifiers with **both count and uncountable** nouns:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| all | any | enough | less | a lot of | lots of |
| more | most | no | none of | some |  |

 And some more **colloquial forms**:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| plenty of | heaps of | a load of | loads of | tons of | *etc.* |

 Some quantifiers can be used **only with count nouns**:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| both | each | either | (a) few | fewer | neither | several |

 And some more **colloquial forms**:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a couple of | hundreds of | thousands of | *etc.* |

 Some quantifiers can be used **only with uncountable nouns**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a little | (not) much | a bit of |

 And, particularly with **abstract nouns** such as ***time***, ***money***, ***trouble***, etc.:, we often use:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a great deal of | a good deal of |

**Members of groups**

You can put a noun **after** a quantifier when you are talking about **members of a group** in general…

**Few** snakes are dangerous.  
**Both** brothers work with their father.  
I never have **enough** money.

…but if you are talking about a **specific** group of people or things, use ***of the …*** as well

**Few of the** snakes are dangerous.  
**All of the** children live at home.  
He has spent **all of his money**.

Note that, if we are talking about **two** people or things we use the quantifiers ***both***, ***either*** and ***neither***:

| **One supermarket** | **Two supermarkets\*** | **More than two supermarkets** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| The supermarket was closed  The supermarket wasn't open  I don’t think the supermarket was open. | Both the supermarkets were closed.  Neither of the supermarkets was open.  I don’t think either of the supermarkets was open. | All the supermarkets were closed  None of the supermarkets were open  I don't think any of the supermarkets were open |

*\*Nouns with* ***either*** *and* ***neither*** *have a* ***singular*** *verb.*

**Singular quantifiers:**

We use ***every*** or ***each*** with a singular noun to mean ***all***:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| There was a party in **every street**. | = | There were parties in all the streets. |
| **Every shop** was decorated with flowers. | = | All the shops were decorated with flowers. |
| **Each child** was given a prize. | = | All the children were given a prize. |
| There was a prize in **each competition**. | = | There were prizes in all the competitions. |

 We often use ***every*** to talk about times like days, weeks and years:

When we were children we had holidays at our grandmother’s **every year**.  
When we stayed at my grandmother’s house we went to the beach **every day**.  
We visit our daughter **every Christmas**.

BUT: We do **not** use a determiner with ***every*** and ***each***. We do not say:

~~The~~ every shop was decorated with flowers.  
~~The~~ each child was given a prize.