

GRAMMAR

G1 QUANTIFIERS

Use quantifiers to describe the quantity of something. We use different quantifiers with plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns.

+ plural countable noun

few, (too) many, several

+ uncountable noun

little, (too) much

+ countable or uncountable noun

hardly any, a lot of, some, all

To talk about things in general, use quantifier + noun.

Many people prefer football.

To talk about something specific use quantifier + *of* + *the / my / our / these, etc.* + noun.

Some of the people in the survey prefer golf.

LITTLE / FEW / A LITTLE / A FEW

Little and *few* have a negative meaning similar to 'not much / not many / almost none'.

There's **little** food in the house. We'll have to do some shopping.

But a *little* and a *few* have a positive meaning similar to 'a small quantity / some'.

There's **a little** food in the fridge if you're hungry.

SOME/ANY

We usually use *some* in positive statements and *any* in questions and negatives.

We are playing **some** games next month, but there aren't **any** at the weekend.

G2 DEFINITE AND ZERO ARTICLES

Use the definite article (*the*):

- when referring to something that is already known to the listener because it has been mentioned before.
So I showed **the** photos to the police. (I've mentioned these photos before.)
- when referring to something that is already known to the listener because it is obvious from the context.
I forgot to give **the** cat her supper. (It is obvious I'm talking about *my* cat.)
- when something is unique (including superlatives and *first, last, next, only*).
She is **the** greatest sportswoman.
- when a defining or prepositional phrase makes the noun specific.
It's **the** house at the top of the street.
- before the names of some geographical features, buildings and places.
I live in **the** countryside, not **the** town.

Use the zero article (no article):

- before abstract nouns.
You can't stop **time**.
- before general plural nouns.
Computers are very powerful now.

! But if the abstract or plural noun is made specific by a defining phrase, we use an article.

The computers we've just bought are fantastic.

- before people's names and the names of most companies, materials, countries, mountains and lakes.
Alexandra lives in **Italy**. She lives near **Lake Como**. She works for **Deutsche Bank**.

- before the names of types of institutions, for example *school, hospital, university*.
My brother is about to start **school**.

! But if we are referring to a particular building, we use the definite article.

Excuse me. Is **the school** near here?

KEY LANGUAGE

KL EMPHASIS AND COMPARISON

EMPHASISING ADJECTIVES

an outstanding achievement

exceptional qualities

an astonishing performance

extraordinary technical skills

EMPHASISING ADVERBS

a truly remarkable sportswoman

She undoubtedly is a superstar ...

EMPHASISING EXPRESSIONS

... and above all her admirable personal qualities

What's also extraordinary about her is ...

There seems to be no end to Yuna Kim's remarkable talents

VOCABULARY

V1 IDIOMS

a level playing field, score an own goal, a whole new ball game, start the ball rolling, be on the ball, take your eye off the ball, move the goalposts

V2 SELF-

self-confidence, self-control, self-defence, self-development, self-discipline, self-respect

V3 ABSTRACT NOUNS (FROM ADJECTIVES)

agility, (agile), calm, (calm), coordination, (coordinated), courtesy, (courteous), flexibility, (flexible), tolerance, (tolerant)

V4 AMBITION

determination, extremes, intensity, make sacrifices, obsessive, set apart

G1 1 Choose the correct word or phrase.

- 1 Borrow one of my pens – there are *few / a few* in the cupboard.
- 2 Hardly any *students / of students* passed the test.
- 3 There's *few / hardly any* music on my MP3 player.
- 4 Almost *none / none of* our photos came out well.
- 5 *Several / Several of* my friends are at university.
- 6 I need *a few / a little* help with my homework.
- 7 There's *a little / little* furniture in the flat so we'll have to buy some.
- 8 You should invest your money with my bank. *Few / A few* other banks offer such good interest rates.
- 9 There's far too *much / many* rubbish on the streets.

G2 2 Read the text and add six definite articles.

Quidditch is a fictional sport invented by the author J.K. Rowling for best-selling Harry Potter books. It is a ball game in which players try to score goals. There are four balls and two teams of seven players. Usually players are wizards and witches and play game by flying on their broomsticks. The goals are ring-shaped and are above the ground. The object of game is to score more goals than opposing team.

3 Complete the sentences with either the definite article or a blank space if no article is needed.

- 1 How far is it from _____ capital city?
- 2 Did you see _____ last episode of *Heroes*?
- 3 I've bought a new phone. _____ phone's got a fantastic camera.
- 4 Who is _____ best singer at the moment?
- 5 All children should do _____ sports when they are at _____ school.
- 6 Is that _____ house where you grew up?

K1 4 Two managers are discussing job applicants they have just interviewed. Complete the dialogue with the words and phrases below.

- A: Well, Caroline and Toby were _____ - they both have lots of experience.
 B: You're right. They both had _____ qualities.
 A: So, Caroline or Toby? Who do you prefer?
 B: Well, Caroline has _____ technical skills.
 A: Yes, but she's a bit direct and pushy ...
 A: Do you think so? I thought her presentation was _____.
 A: Yes, but Toby also gave an _____ performance and he has a great CV. _____ to his achievements.
 B: Yes, he _____ has _____ personal qualities. He'd get on really well with the rest of the team.
- a** exceptional
b admirable
c extraordinary
d truly remarkable
e There seems to be no end
f outstanding
g undoubtedly
h astonishing

V1 5 Read the summary of a business meeting and use the information to complete the sentences below with the names in italics.

Once everyone had sat down, *David* started the meeting by making some suggestions and asking everyone for their ideas. *Steve* made sure everybody had a chance to speak. *Lucy* said she wanted to talk about the marketing campaign, but then she realised she had left her notes behind, which made her look foolish. But of course *Walter* remembered that he had a summary of the campaign on his laptop, so he was able to help her with the details. We then asked *Miranda* to give a summary of the situation, but she hadn't been listening so she couldn't say much. Then *Caroline* said she wanted to discuss everybody's opinions on the new US office, but then suddenly decided she wanted us all to write our opinions in a report, which was rather annoying.

- 1 _____ tried to create a level playing field.
- 2 _____ moved the goalposts.
- 3 _____ scored an own goal.
- 4 _____ started the ball rolling.
- 5 _____ took her eyes off the ball.
- 6 _____ was really on the ball.

V2 6 Match the sentences.

- 1 I'm always nervous at interviews.
 - 2 I never lose my temper.
 - 3 I want to improve my skills and understanding.
 - 4 I find it difficult to make myself work hard.
 - 5 I'm not really happy with my personality and behaviour.
- a I lack self-discipline.
 - b I have a lot of self-control.
 - c I don't have much self-respect.
 - d I don't have any self-confidence.
 - e I'm interested in self-development.

V3,4 7 Choose the correct word.

- 1 The aim of the game is not to hurt your opponent, but to demonstrate your skill and physical *agility / agile*.
- 2 Success in the game depends on *coordination / coordinated* between all parts of the body.
- 3 The gymnasts are extremely *flexibility / flexible* to make all the moves they do.
- 4 The coach wasn't very *tolerance / tolerant* when the team made mistakes.
- 5 She showed great *determination / determined* throughout the difficult race.
- 6 It is said you have to *make / have* sacrifices to get to the top in sport.
- 7 He is slightly *obsession / obsessive* when it comes to his training – he doesn't know when to stop!
- 8 His talent set him *apart / upon* from the rest of the team.