

## UNIT 6

### ▶ Expressing quantity

#### Quantifiers

- 1 The following can be used before a noun.

some/any	much/many	each/every	more/most
a little/little	a few/few	both	fewer/less
all/no	enough		several

With count nouns only	With uncount nouns only	With both count and uncount nouns
(not) many cigarettes a few cars very few trees fewer books several answers	(not) much luck a little cheese very little experience less time	some money some eggs (not) any water (not) any friends more/most cake more/most people all/no work all/no children enough food enough apples
With singular count nouns only	With plural count nouns only	
each boy every time	both parents	

- 2 Most of the quantifiers can be used without a noun. *No, all, every,* and *each* cannot.

<i>Have you got any money?</i>	<b><i>Not much/a little/enough.</i></b>
<i>Are there any eggs?</i>	<b><i>A few/not many.</i></b>
<i>Have some salad.</i>	<b><i>I don't want any.</i></b>
<i>How many people came?</i>	<b><i>Very few.</i></b>
<i>Have some more tea.</i>	<b><i>I've got some.</i></b>
<i>Did Ann or Sam go?</i>	<b><i>Both.</i></b>

- 3 Most of the quantifiers can be used with *of + the/my/those, etc. + noun*. *No* and *every* cannot.

*They took all of my money.*  
*Take a few of these tablets.*  
*Some of the people at the match started leaving.*  
*Were any of my friends at the café?*  
*Very few of my friends smoke.*  
*Not much of the food was left.*  
*I've missed too many of my French lessons.*  
*I couldn't answer several of the questions.*  
*I'll have a little of the strawberry cake, please.*

*Both of my children are clever.  
I feel tired most of the time.  
I've had enough of your jokes.*

- 4 For *no* and *every*, we use *none* and *every one* or *all*.

*None of the audience was listening.  
All of the hotels were booked.*

In formal, written English, *none* is followed by a singular form of the verb.

*None of the guests has arrived yet.*

But in informal English, a plural verb is possible.

*None of my friends smoke.*

*None of the lights are working.*

#### Note

When we use *none* with a plural noun or pronoun, the verb can be singular or plural. Grammatically, it should be singular, but people often use the plural when they speak.

*None of my friends is coming.*

*None of my friends are coming.*

#### **some, any, somebody, anything**

- 1 The basic rule is that *some* and its compounds are used in affirmative sentences, and *any* and its compounds in negatives and questions.

*I need some help.*

*I need somebody to help me.*

*Give me something for my headache.*

*I don't need any shopping.*

*We can't go anywhere without being recognized.*

*Is there any sugar left?*

*Did anyone phone me last night?*

- 2 *Some* and its compounds are used in requests or invitations, or when we expect the answer 'yes'.

*Have you got some money you could lend me?*

*Would you like something to eat?*

*Did someone phone me last night?*

*Can we go somewhere quiet to talk?*

- 3 *Any* and its compounds are used in affirmative sentences that have a negative meaning.

*He never has any money.*

*You made hardly any mistakes.*

*I made the cake myself without any help.*

- 4 *Any* and its compounds are used to express *It doesn't matter which/who/where*.

*Take any book you like. I don't mind.*

*Anyone will tell you 2 and 2 makes 4.*

*Sit anywhere you like.*

*I eat anything. I'm not fussy.*

#### **nobody, no one, nowhere, nothing**

- 1 These are more emphatic forms.

*I saw nobody all weekend.*

*I've eaten nothing all day.*

- 2 They can be used at the beginning of sentences.

*No one was saved.*

*Nobody understands me.*

*Nowhere is safe any more.*

#### **much, many, a lot of, lots of, a great deal of, a large number of, plenty of**

- 1 *Much* and *many* are usually used in questions and negatives.

*How much does it cost?*

*How many people came to the meeting?*

*Is there much unemployment in your country?*

*I don't have much money.*

*Will there be many people there?*

*You don't see many snakes in England.*

- 2 We find *much* and *many* in affirmative sentences after *so*, *as*, and *too*.

*He has so much money that he doesn't know what to do with it.*  
*She hasn't got as many friends as I have.*  
*You make too many mistakes. Be careful.*

- 3 In affirmative sentences, the following forms are found.

**Spoken/informal**

*There'll be plenty of food/people.* (uncount and count)  
*We've got lots of time/friends.* (uncount and count)  
*I lost a lot of my furniture/things.* (uncount and count)

**Written/more formal**

*A great deal of money was lost during the war.* (uncount)  
*A large number of matches were cancelled due to bad weather.*  
(count)

*Many world leaders are quite young.* (count)  
*Much time is wasted in trivial pursuits.* (uncount)

- 4 These forms are found without nouns.

*'Have you got enough socks?' 'Lots.'*  
*'How many people were there?' 'A lot.'*  
*Don't worry about food. We've got plenty.*

**little/few/less/fewer**

- 1 A *little* and a *few* express a small amount or number in a positive way. Although there is only a little, it is probably enough.

*Can you lend me a little sugar?*  
*A few friends are coming round tonight.*

- 2 *Little* and *few* express a small amount in a negative way. There is not enough.

*Very few people passed the exam.*  
*There's very little milk left.*

- 3 *Fewer* is the comparative of *few*, *less* is the comparative of *little*.

*Fewer people read books these days.* (= count noun)  
*I spend less and less time doing what I want to.* (= uncount noun)

It is becoming more common to find *less* with a count noun. Many people think that this is incorrect and sounds terrible.

~~\* Less people read books.~~  
~~\* You should smoke less cigarettes.~~

**all**

- 1 We do not usually use *all* to mean *everybody/everyone/everything*.

*Everybody had a good time.*  
*Everything was ruined in the fire.*  
*I said hello to everyone.*

But if *all* is followed by a relative clause, it can mean *everything*.

*All (that) I own is yours.*  
*I spend all I earn.*

This structure can have a negative meaning, expressing ideas such as *nothing more* or *only this*.

*All I want is a place to sleep.*  
*All I had was a couple of sandwiches.*  
*All that happened was that he pushed her a bit, and she fell over.*

- 2 Before a noun with a determiner (for example *the*, *my*, *this*) both *all* and *all of* are possible.

*You eat all (of) the time.*  
*All (of) my friends are coming tonight.*

Before a noun with no determiner, we use *all*.  
*All people are born equal.*

- 3 With personal pronouns, we use *all of*.

*All of you passed. Well done!*  
*I don't need these books. You can have all of them.*



## TEST YOUR GRAMMAR

- 1 Underline the words that can complete the expressions of quantity.

**a few** ... cars/traffic/hold-ups/pollution

**not many** ... crimes/criminals/violence/accidents

**several** ... times/letters/paper/rooms

**very little** ... time/room/hope/spaces

**not much** ... jobs/unemployment/work/experience

**a bit of** ... luck/opportunity/fun/help

enthusiasm/energy/people/ingredients

chairs/food/herbs/cutlery

fresh air/fluids/sleep/walks

money/experience/clothes/friends

- 2 What do you notice about the three groups of quantifiers?

3 Find word pairs linked according to meaning. Which are normally count nouns, and which uncount? Write them in the correct column.

dollar	lorry	suitcase	job	furniture	advice	apple
trouble	fact	money	suggestion	fruit	journey	chair
problem	work	traffic	information	luggage	travel	

Count nouns	Uncount nouns
dollar	money

With a partner, choose a pair of words. Write two sentences to illustrate their use. Use the count nouns in the plural.

*We need some new furniture. We need four more chairs.*

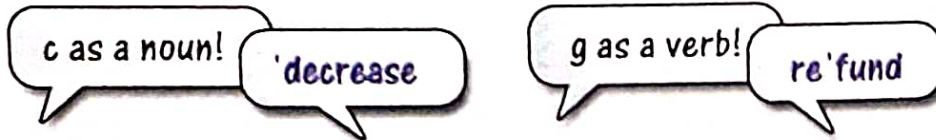
# VOCABULARY AND PRONUNCIATION

export: /'ekspɔ:t/ or /ɪk'spɔ:t/

- 1 **T 6.5** Listen and repeat these words, first as nouns and then as verbs. How does the word stress change?

a export	c decrease	e progress	g refund	i permit	k insult
b import	d increase	f record	h produce	j transport	l protest

- 2 With a partner practise the words. Give instructions like this.



- 3 Complete the sentences with one of the words in its correct form. Read the sentences aloud.

- 1 Scotland imports a lot of its food from other countries. Its exports include oil, electronics and financial services.
- 2 I'm very pleased with my English. I'm making a lot of progress.
- 3 Ministers are worried. There has been an increase in the number of unemployed.
- 4 But the number of crimes has decreased, so that's good news.
- 5 How dare you call me a liar and a cheat! What an insult!
- 6 There was a demonstration yesterday. People were protesting about blood sports.
- 7 He ran 100m in 9.75 seconds and broke the world record.
- 8 Don't touch the DVD player! I'm recording a film.
- 9 Britain produces about 50% of its own oil.

- T 6.6** Listen and check.