

◇ PRACTICE 11. Using *a few/few; a little/little*. (Chart 7-10)

Directions: Without substantially changing the meaning of the sentences, replace the *italicized* words with *a few*, *(very) few*, *a little*, or *(very) little*.

1. I think that ^{a little} *some* lemon juice in a salad makes it taste better.
2. Many people have graduate degrees, but ^{(very) few} *not many* people have more than two graduate degrees.
3. You might reach your goal if you put forth *some* more effort.
4. Even though the mountain is very steep and the climb is hazardous, *several* strong-willed people have managed to reach the top.
5. The number of people in the world who are willing to risk their lives climbing a dangerous mountain is small. *Not very many* people will actually face death to climb a mountain.
6. The professor lectured very clearly. As a result *not many* students had questions at the end of the class period.
7. I have to go to the post office because I have *some* letters to mail.
8. Every day Max goes to his mailbox, but it is usually empty. He gets *not much* mail.
9. My friend arrived in the United States *several* months ago.
10. I think you could use some help. Let me give you *some* advice.
11. *Not many* days ago I met a very interesting person.

7-12 ALL (OF) AND BOTH (OF)

(a) CORRECT: <i>All of the students</i> in my class are here. (b) CORRECT: <i>All the students</i> in my class are here.	When a noun is specific (e.g., <i>the students</i>), using <i>of</i> after <i>all</i> is optional as in (a) and (b).
(c) CORRECT: <i>All students</i> must have an I.D. card. (d) INCORRECT: <i>All of students</i> must have an I.D. card.	When a noun is nonspecific, <i>of</i> does NOT follow <i>all</i> , as in (c).
(e) I know <i>both (of) those men</i> . (f) CORRECT: I know <i>both men</i> . (g) INCORRECT: I know <i>both of men</i> .	Similarly, using <i>of</i> after <i>both</i> is optional when the noun is specific, as in (e). When a noun is nonspecific, <i>of</i> does NOT follow <i>both</i> , as in (f).

□ EXERCISE 26. ALL (OF) and BOTH (OF). (Chart 7-12)

Directions: *Of* is not necessary in any of these sentences. In the sentences in which the use of *of* is optional, write *(of)* in the blanks. If *of* is not possible because the noun is nonspecific, write \emptyset .

1. All (of) the children listened to the story.
2. Almost all \emptyset children like fairy tales.

*COMPARE:

- (1) *The most* = superlative. The superlative is used to compare three or more persons or things. *The most* is never immediately followed by *of*. Example: *Out of all the boys, Tom ate the most food.*
- (2) *Most* (not preceded by *the*) = an expression of quantity whose meaning ranges from "over fifty percent" to "almost all." Example: *Most of the food at that restaurant is good, but not all of it.*

Understanding and
Using English Grammar,
Third Edition, Betty Azar
©2002 pg. 126