

Expressions of Quantity: STUDY GUIDE

EXPRESSIONS OF QUANTITY USED WITH COUNT AND NONCOUNT NOUNSE		
With Count Nouns <u>ONLY</u>	With Noncount Nouns <u>ONLY</u>	With Both
*One		No
*Each		hardly any
*Every		some = any
two, etc.	a little	a lot of = lots of
both	little	plenty of
a couple of	much	most
a few	a great deal of	all
few		almost all
several		50% of, etc.
many		half of
a number of		3/4 of, 2/3 of, etc.
hundreds of		
thousands of		
millions of		

Using EACH / EVERY / ONE --

When do "ONE," "EACH," and "EVERY" go before singular nouns?

This happens when the noun is **IMMEDIATELY AFTER** "ONE," "EACH," and "EVERY."

Examples:

One DOG HAS brown fur.

Each DOG HAS brown fur.

Every DOG HAS brown fur.

When do "ONE," "EACH," and "EVERY" go before plural nouns?

This happens when the noun is **NOT IMMEDIATELY AFTER** "ONE," "EACH," and "EVERY," which means that the plural noun is **specific**.

Examples:

One of the DOGS HAS brown fur.

Each of my DOGS HAS brown fur.

Every one of those DOGS HAS brown fur.

PAY ATTENTION TO THIS:

1. No matter if the noun after "one," "each," and "every" is singular or plural.

THE VERB IS ALWAYS SINGULAR.

2. After "every," it is not possible to use "of" **UNLESS** you have the word "one."

Examples:

It is incorrect to say: Every of the students COMES every day.

It is correct to say: Every one of my students COMES every day.

MAKING NOUNS SPECIFIC:

1. **The:** *Every one of **the** desks is set.*
2. **Possession:** *One of **her** friends is sick.*
3. **Demonstrative Pronouns (this, that, these, those):** *Each of **those** books is new.*

The preposition “OF” does not always go after an expression of quantity. Check the following chart to confirm which ones always, sometimes, and never go with “OF.”

USING “OF” IN EXPRESSIONS OF QUANTITY		
ALWAYS WITH “OF”	SOMETIMES WITH “OF”*	NEVER WITH “OF”
half of	one (OF)	
50% OF, etc.	each (OF)	
3/4 OF, 2/3 OF, etc	two, etc. (OF)	
a majority OF	both (OF)	
hundreds OF	a few (OF)	every**
thousands OF	few (OF)	no
millions OF	several (OF)	
billions OF	many (OF)	
a number OF	a little (OF)	
a great deal OF	little (OF)	
a lot OF	much (OF)	
lots OF	all (OF)	
plenty OF	almost all (OF)	
none OF	most (OF)	
a couple OF	hardly any (OF)	
a number OF	some (OF)	
	any (OF)	

UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE:

If the expression always contains **OF**, the sentence can be specific or not.

Examples:

Plenty of people drive a car to work. → NOT SPECIFIC

Plenty of the people in Quito drive a car to work. → SPECIFIC

Plenty of those people drive a car to work. → SPECIFIC

(continued)

If the expression does **NOT** contain **OF**, but it is used, then it MUST be specific.

Examples:

Most students study every night. → NOT SPECIFIC

Most of the teacher's students study every night. → SPECIFIC

~~Most of students study every night.~~ → WRONG

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN “(A) FEW” AND “(A) LITTLE?”

SOME	ALMOST NOTHING
a few COUNT NOUNS	(very) few COUNT NOUNS
a little NONCOUNT NOUNS	(very) little NONCOUNT NOUNS

EXAMPLES:

Bob is hungry, so he is going to eat **a few apples**. → some apples

Sue just moved here, so she has **(very) few friends**. → almost no friends

I am not busy. I do have **a little time** to help you. → some time

After going to the gym, I feel as if I have **(very) little energy**. → almost no energy