

Unit 57: QUANTITY

We can use

any	all	every	a few	a little	a lot of	lots of
many	most	much	no	none of	some	

to talk about how much or how many of a noun.

When we are talking about quantity, we can talk about number (general quantity) or we can talk about percentage (how much or how many of something).

1 Number

a zero quantity

There weren't **any** napkins on the table.

We didn't go **anywhere** last night.

There were **no** napkins on the table. no = not any

The cook book was **no** help to me at all.

There was **nothing** we could do about it.

NOTICE: nothing = no thing nowhere = no place
 nobody / no one = no person

b small quantity

PLURAL NOUNS

a few crumbs

not many orders

MASS NOUNS (Unit 47)

a little cheese

not much soup

c large quantity

There was **lots of** coffee in the shop.

There were **a lot of** cars in the parking lot.

NOTICE: We can also use **many** and **much**. For example: I have had **many** problems, but usually only in writing.

2 Percentage

We can use all the words that we can use for number. For example:

I didn't see **any** hamburgers on the menu.

Only **a few of** the dishes come with a salad.

Many of them didn't leave a tip.

Notice that we often use **of** after the quantity-word to introduce what we are talking about.

We also use:

a none of (zero)

None of the servers were tipped.

I didn't like the meal. **None of** it was any good.

NOTICE: We cannot say *no of*.

b some / some of (more than zero, but less than half)

The meal was very large, I was able to finish **some of** it.

I liked the service, but **some of** the dishes were filthy.

c most / most of (more than half, but less than 100 per cent)

Most people hate being served a cold meal.

The meal was very good. **Most of us** devoured it.

d all / all of (100 per cent)

All of the dishes on the menu are vegan.

All salads are served with garlic bread.

3 Every and any

These words go with singular nouns. We can also use them with **one / body / thing / where**.

a every (all) = ■ and ■ and ■ and ■

Come and taste **every** item on the menu. Eat all of the food.

I've tried **everything** on the menu. Eaten all the dishes.

Everyone enjoyed the meal.

All the customers.

b **any** = ■ or ■ or ■ or ■

Come and try **any** item on the menu.

Come and try one – it doesn't matter which one.

You can have **any** item on the menu.

You can choose any item.

Anyone can enjoy the menu.

It is very likeable.

You can eat **any** item on the menu.

They all are delicious, so it doesn't matter which one you try.

NOTICE: We use **both**, **either** and **neither** for two of something (Unit 58).

NOTICE: Appendix 9 tells you about numbers in English.