

No, none (of) and not any

A

We can use **no** and **none (of)** instead of **not a** or **not any** for particular emphasis. Compare:

Reminder → I29–I34

- ☐ There isn't a train until tomorrow. *and* There's **no** train until tomorrow. (more emphatic)
- ☐ Sorry, there isn't **any** left. *and* Sorry, there's **none** left.
- ☐ He didn't have **any** of the usual symptoms. *and* He had **none of** the usual symptoms.

We use other pairs of negative words and phrases in a similar way:

- ☐ There isn't **anyone** / **anybody** here. *and* There's **no one** / **nobody** here. (more emphatic)
- ☐ She wasn't **anywhere** to be seen. *and* She was **nowhere** to be seen.
- ☐ Why don't you **ever** call me? *and* Why do you **never** call me?

B

We don't usually use **not a** / **any**, **not anyone**, etc. in initial position in a sentence or clause, or straight after **and**, **but** or **that** at the beginning of a clause. Instead we use **no**, **none of**, **no one**, etc.:

- ☐ **No** force was needed to make them move. (*not* Not any force was needed ...)
- ☐ Most players are under 16 *and* **none of** them is over 20. (*not* ... and not any of them ...)
- ☐ I'm sure *that* **nothing** can go wrong. (*not* ... that not anything can ...)

C

In a formal or literary style we can use **not a** in initial position or after **and**, **but** or **that** (see also Unit 100):

- ☐ **Not a** sound came from the room. (*less formally* There wasn't a sound from the room.)
- ☐ She kept so quiet *that* **not a** soul in the house knew she was there.

D

After **no**, we can often use either a singular or a plural noun with little difference in meaning, although a singular noun is usually more formal:

- ☐ **No answers** could be found. (*or more formally* **No answer** ...)
- ☐ We want to go to the island but there are **no boats** to take us. (*or more formally* ... there is **no boat**.)

However, we use a *singular* noun in situations where we would expect one of something, and a *plural* noun where we would expect more than one. Compare:

- ☐ I phoned Sarah at home, but there *was* **no answer**. (*not* ... but there were no answers.) *and*
- ☐ He seems very lonely at school, and *has* **no friends**. (*not* ... no friend.)

E

We can give special emphasis to **no** or **none of** using phrases like **no amount of** with uncountable nouns, **not one ... / not a single ...** with singular countable nouns, and **not one of ...** with plural nouns:

- ☐ The company is so badly managed that **no amount of** investment will make it successful.
- ☐ **Not one person** remembered my birthday. (*or* **Not a single person** ...)
- ☐ **Not one of the families** affected by the noise wants to move.

F

Some phrases with **no** are commonly used in informal spoken English: **No wonder** (= it's not surprising); **No idea** (= I don't know); **No comment** (= I have nothing to say); **No way**, **No chance** (= emphatic ways of saying 'no', particularly to express refusal to do or believe something);

No problem, **No bother** (= it isn't / wasn't difficult to do something):

- ☐ 'The computer's not working again.'
- ☐ '**No wonder**. It's not plugged in!'
- ☐ 'Thanks for the lift.' '**No problem**. I had to go past the station anyway.'



Exercises

- 49.1** Complete the sentences with a word or phrase from (i) followed by a word or phrase from (ii). Use each word or phrase once only. **A–C**

(i)

no ~~none~~ none of no one nothing nowhere never not

(ii)

a drop else going to get heard the hotels
~~in the cupboard~~ point wrong

- Where are the biscuits? There are none in the cupboard.
- We left the house as quietly as possible and us.
- was spilt as she poured the liquid into the flask.
- She was determined to leave and I knew there was in protesting.
- The door was locked and he had to go.
- I found that in the city centre had any rooms left.
- Liam's so lazy. Is he a job?
- The doctors reassured Emily that they could find with her.

- 49.2** Look again at the sentences in 49.1. Which of them can you rewrite to make less emphatic using **not (n't) any / anyone**, etc.? **A & B**

- 49.3** If necessary, correct the italicised parts of this email. **D**

Hi. Just back from a week on the island of Lumos – but I certainly wouldn't recommend it! Their economy is in a really bad way. A lot of people just sit around all day – there (1) *is no job* to be found outside the main town. I had to hire a car because there (2) *is no train or bus* on the island. But it was incredibly old – it's ages since I've seen a car with (3) *no seatbelt*. And then when I had a puncture I discovered there (4) *were no spare tyres* either. It was in the hills in the north, and as there (5) *were no people* around to help, I phoned the car hire company and had to wait hours for someone to turn up. It was hot and there (6) *was no shade* as there (7) *is no tree* in that part of the island. The hotel wasn't much better. There (8) *were no swimming pools* – even though it showed one on its website! There (9) *were no televisions* in my room, and on the first night there (10) *was no hot water*. But when I phoned down to reception to complain, there (11) *were no replies*. The food was awful at the hotel, but as there (12) *were no restaurants* for miles around there (13) *were no choices* – I had to eat there. But I don't think I'll be going back! Speak soon,
Karl

- 49.4** Complete these sentences in any appropriate way beginning **not one (of)** or **no amount of**. **E**

- I made lots of cakes for the party but not one of the children liked them.
- Mr Carlson didn't want to sell the painting, and ...
- I sent job applications to over a hundred companies, but ...
- Smallpox used to be common all over the world but since 1978 ...
- The floor had dirty black marks all over it, and ...

- 49.5** Choose one of the **No ...** phrases from section F opposite to complete these dialogues. **F**

- A: Can you give me a lift to the station? B: I'll pick you up at eight.
- A: I've got a headache.
B: You've been in front of that computer screen for hours.
- A: Do you think Kim will pass her maths?
B: She just doesn't work hard enough.
- A: Where's Stefan?
B: Last time I saw him he was in the kitchen.
- A: I'm from News World, Dr James. Do you have anything to say about the accusation that you stole from your patients? B: Goodbye.

Much (of), many (of), a lot of, lots (of), etc.

Reminder → 138–142

A

In affirmative sentences we generally use **a lot of** and **lots (of)** rather than **much (of)** and **many (of)**, particularly in informal contexts. However, there are a number of exceptions –

- ☆ In formal contexts, such as academic writing, **much (of)** and **many (of)** are often preferred. We can also use phrases such as **a large / considerable / substantial amount of** (with uncountable nouns), or **a large / considerable / great / substantial number of** (with plural nouns):
 - ☐ **Much** debate has been heard about Thornton's new book.
 - ☐ There could be **many** explanations for this.
 - ☐ **Much of** her fiction describes women in unhappy marriages.
 - ☐ **A large amount of** the food was inedible. (or **Much of** ...)
 - ☐ The book contains **a large number of** pictures, many in colour. (or ... **many** ...)
- ☆ In formal contexts we can use **much** and **many** as pronouns:
 - ☐ There is no guarantee she will recover. **Much** depends on how well she responds to treatment.
 - ☐ **Many** (= many people) have argued that she is the finest poet of our generation.
 - ☐ Not once did I see a tiger in the jungle, although I heard **many**. (referring back to 'tiger(s)')
- ☆ We usually use **many** rather than **a lot of** or **lots of** with time expressions (**days, minutes, months, weeks, years**) and **number + of** (e.g. **thousands of voters, millions of pounds**):
 - ☐ We used to spend **many hours** driving to Melbourne and back.
 - ☐ He was the founder of a company now worth **many millions of pounds**.

B

We can use **many** following **the, my, its, his, her**, etc. and plural countable nouns:

- ☐ Among **the many unknowns** after the earthquake is the extent of damage to the foundations of buildings.
- ☐ The gallery is exhibiting some of **his many famous paintings of ships**.

We can use the phrase **many a** with a singular noun to talk about a repeated event or a large number of people or things:

- ☐ **Many a pupil** at the school will be pleased that Latin is no longer compulsory.

C

To emphasise that we are talking about a large number we can use **a good / great many** with a plural noun:

- ☐ She has **a good / great many friends** in New Zealand.

To emphasise that we are talking about a large amount we can use **a good / great deal of** with a singular or uncountable noun:

- ☐ **A good / great deal of** the exhibition was devoted to her recent work.

D

We use **far** (not 'much' or 'many') before **too many + a plural countable noun** or **too much + an uncountable noun**:

- ☐ **Far too many** students failed the end-of-year maths exam. (not *Much / Many too many* ...)
- ☐ **Far too much** time is wasted filling in forms. (not *Much / Many too much time* ...)

E

We often use **plenty of** instead of **a lot of** or **lots of** with uncountable and plural countable nouns. However, **plenty of** means 'enough, or more than enough' and is therefore not likely in certain contexts. Compare:

- ☐ We took **lots of / plenty of** food and drink on our walk through the hills. *and*
- ☐ Nina doesn't look well. She's lost **a lot of** weight. ('plenty of' is unlikely here)

Exercises

50.1 Make corrections or improvements to these extracts from conversations (1–3) and from academic writing (4–6). **A, C, D & E**

1 Lola's had many problems with her back for a lot of years. She's having an operation next week and she won't be back at work for a good deal of weeks afterwards.

2 A: There's bound to be much traffic on the way to the station. Perhaps we should leave now.

B: No, there's plenty time left, and at this time of day many people will already be at work.

3 Many think that hedgehogs are very rare nowadays, but when I was in Wales I saw many.

4 A lot have claimed that Professor Dowman's study on current attitudes to politics is flawed. One criticism is that much too many people questioned in the survey were under 18.

5 A lot of research has been conducted on the effects of diet on health, with a lot of studies focusing on the link between fat intake and heart disease. However, a lot remains to be done.

6 While it is true that a lot of thousands of jobs were lost with the decline of the northern coal and steel industries, a lot of advantages have also followed. Much too many cases of lung disease were recorded in the region, but with lower levels of pollution the number has declined. In addition, a great deal of hi-tech companies have moved in to take advantage of the newly available workforce.

50.2 Complete the sentences with either **the / my / its / his / her many** or **many a / an** and one item from the box. **B**

coffee shops expeditions German relatives golf courses
emails ship sunny afternoon teacher

- 1 She went to stay in Munich with one of her many German relatives.
- 2 I spent sitting on the terrace looking out over the hills.
- 3 has been lost in the dangerous waters off the south coast of the island.
- 4 The area is most famous for that attract players from all over the world.
- 5 Since the end of last year he has refused to speak to me on the phone or answer
- 6 Oliver Svensson accompanied Colonel Colombo on to the Himalayas and the Andes.
- 7 will be looking forward to the start of the school holidays.
- 8 I went into the first of along New Street and ordered an espresso.

50.3 If possible, complete these sentences using **plenty of**. If not, use **a lot of**. **E**

- 1 It will be very hot on the journey, so make sure you bring drinking water.
- 2 staff at the hospital have come down with a mysterious illness.
- 3 He didn't have money, so he decided to catch the bus rather than take a taxi.
- 4 We were surprised when students failed to attend the lecture.
- 5 I'm looking forward to a relaxing holiday, and I'm taking books to read.

All (of), whole, every, each

A

All (of)

Reminder → I43–I46

We sometimes use **all** after the noun it refers to:

- ☐ *His songs **all** sound much the same to me. (or **All [of]** his songs sound ...)*
- ☐ *We **all** think Kushi's working too hard. (or **All of us** think ...)*

Note that we usually put **all** after the verb **be** and after the first auxiliary verb if there is one:

- ☐ *They **are all** going to Athens during the vacation. (not They all are going ...)*
- ☐ *You **should all** have three question papers. (not You all should have ...; however, note that we can say 'You all should have ...' for particular emphasis in spoken English)*

B

To make negative sentences with **all (of)** we usually use **not all (of)** rather than **all ... not** (although **all ... not** is sometimes used in informal spoken English):

- ☐ ***Not all (of)** the seats were taken. or The seats were **not all** taken.*

Note that **not all (of)** and **none of** have a different meaning. Compare:

- ☐ ***Not all (of)** my cousins were at the wedding. (= some of them were there) and*
- ☐ ***None of** my cousins were at the wedding. (= not one of them was there)*

C

All and whole

Before singular countable nouns we usually use **the whole** rather than **all the**:

- ☐ *They weren't able to stay for **the whole** concert. (rather than ... for all the concert.)*

However, we can say **all + day / week / night / month / winter**, etc. (*but not usually all October / 2001 / 21st May*, etc.; **all Monday / Tuesday**, etc. are only usually used in informal contexts); **all the time**, **all the way**; and in informal speech we can use **all the** with things that we see as being made up of parts (**all the world / house / city / country / department**, etc.):

- ☐ *After the fire **the whole city** was covered in dust. (or ... **all the city** ... in informal speech)*

Note that we can use **entire** instead of **whole** immediately before a noun:

- ☐ *The **whole / entire** building has recently been renovated.*

Before plural nouns we can use **all (of)** or **whole**, but they have different meanings. Compare:

- ☐ ***All (of) the towns** had their electricity cut off. (= every town in an area) and*
- ☐ *After the storm, **whole towns** were left without electricity. (= some towns were completely affected; note that we don't say '... whole the towns ...')*

D

Every and each

Often we can use **every** or **each** with little difference in meaning. However, we use **every** –

- ☆ with **almost**, **virtually**, etc. + noun to emphasise we are talking about a group as a whole:
 - ☐ ***Almost every** visitor stopped and stared. (not Almost each visitor ...)*
- ☆ with a plural noun when **every** is followed by a number:
 - ☐ *I go to the dentist **every** six months. (rather than ... each six months.)*
- ☆ with abstract uncountable nouns such as **chance**, **confidence**, **hope**, **reason**, and **sympathy** to show a positive attitude to what we are saying. Here **every** means 'complete' or 'total':
 - ☐ *She has **every** chance of success in her application for the job.*
- ☆ in phrases referring to regular or repeated events such as: **every other (kilometre)**, **every single (day)**, **every so often**, **every few (months)**, and **every now and again** (= occasionally).

We use **each** –

- ☆ before a noun or **one** to talk about both people or things in a pair:
 - ☐ *I only had two suitcases, but **each one** weighed over 20 kilos.*
- ☆ as a pronoun:
 - ☐ *I asked many people and **each** gave the same answer. (or ... **each / every one** gave ...)*

Exercises

51.1 Put **all** in the more appropriate space in each sentence. **A**

- 1 They _____ were _____ sitting around the table waiting for me.
- 2 You _____ can _____ stay for dinner if you want.
- 3 It _____ had _____ happened so quickly, I couldn't remember much about it.
- 4 We _____ are _____ going to be late if we don't hurry.
- 5 _____ the children _____ started to speak at once.
- 6 We have _____ been _____ involved in the decision.

51.2 Underline the more appropriate answer. If both are possible, underline them both. **C**

- 1 *All the process* / *The whole process* takes only a few minutes.
- 2 *All areas of the country* / *Whole areas of the country* have been devastated by the floods, although others haven't had rain for months.
- 3 *All the trip* / *The whole trip* cost me less than \$1,000.
- 4 The new rail network links *all of the towns* / *whole towns* in the region.
- 5 When I picked up the book I found that *all of the pages* / *whole pages* had been ripped out. There wasn't a single one left.
- 6 The new heating system makes *all the building* / *the whole building* warmer.
- 7 *All the room* / *The whole room* was full of books.

51.3 Complete these sentences with **every** or **each**, whichever is more appropriate. If you can use either **every** or **each**, write them both. **D**

- 1 I had _____ reason to believe that she would keep my secret.
- 2 The ten lucky winners will _____ receive £1,000.
- 3 We've discussed the problem in virtually _____ meeting for the last year.
- 4 Hugh sends us a postcard from _____ place he visits.
- 5 In a rugby league game _____ side has 13 players.
- 6 They had to take out _____ single part of the engine and clean it.
- 7 Antibiotics were given to _____ child in the school as a precaution.
- 8 The two girls walked in, _____ one carrying a bouquet of flowers.
- 9 _____ household in the country is to be sent a booklet giving advice on first aid.
- 10 You should take two tablets _____ four hours.

51.4 Find any mistakes in the italicised parts of this blog post and suggest corrections. **A-D**

(1) *Each so often* I like to invite (2) *my entire family* – my parents, six brothers and their families – over for dinner on Saturday evening. My parents are quite old now, so I like to see them (3) *each few weeks*. It's quite a lot of work and I usually spend (4) *all Friday* shopping and cooking. Some of my family are fussy about what they eat, so I generally have to cook different things for (5) *every of them*. Fortunately, (6) *all the food doesn't usually get eaten*, so I have plenty left for the rest of the week. (7) *None of my brothers always come*, but the ones who live locally usually do. Last Saturday (8) *Neil and his family all were on holiday* so they couldn't make it. Anyway, (9) *the rest of us had all a great time* and we spent (10) *the whole evening* talking about when we were children.

Few, little, less, fewer

A

We often use (a) **few** and (a) **little** with nouns. However, we can also use them as pronouns:

Reminder → I47–I52

- ☐ It is a part of the world visited by **few**. (= few people)
- ☐ Do you want a chocolate? There's still **a few** left. (= a few chocolates)
- ☐ **Little** is known about the painter's early life.
- ☐ 'Do you know anything about car engines?' '**A little**.' (= I know a little about car engines)

Note that **quite a few** means 'quite a large number':

- ☐ She's been away from work for **quite a few** weeks.

B

We can use **the few** and **the little** followed by a noun to suggest 'not enough' when we talk about a group of things or people (with **few**) or part of a group or amount (with **little**):

- ☐ It's one of **the few** shops in the city centre where you can buy food.
- ☐ We should use **the little** time we have available to discuss Jon's proposal.

Instead of **the few** / **little** we can use **what few** / **little** to mean 'the small (number / amount)':

- ☐ She gave **what little** money she had in her purse to the man. (or ... **the little** money ...)
- ☐ **What few** visitors we have are always made welcome. (or **The few** visitors ...)

Note that we can also say 'She gave **what** / **the little** she had ...' and '**What** / **The few** we have ...' when it is clear from the context what is being referred to.

We can use **few** (but rarely **little**) after personal pronouns (**my**, **her**, etc.) and **these** and **those**:

- ☐ I learned to play golf during **my few** days off during the summer.
- ☐ **These few** miles of motorway have taken over ten years to build.

C

In speech and informal writing, we use **not many** / **much** or **only** / **just** ... **a few** / **little** to talk about a small amount or number, and we often use **a bit (of)** instead of **a little**:

- ☐ Sorry I haven't finished, I **haven't** had **much** time today. (*rather than* ... I had little time ...)
- ☐ I won't be long. I've **only** got **a few** things to get. (*rather than* ... I've got few things ...)
- ☐ Want **a bit** of chocolate? (*rather than* ... a little chocolate?)

In more formal contexts, such as academic writing, we generally prefer **few** and **little**:

- ☐ The results take **little** account of personal preference. (*rather than* ... don't take much ...)

D

Less (than) and fewer (than)

We use **less** with uncountable nouns and **fewer** with plural countable nouns:

- ☐ You should eat **less** pasta.
- ☐ There are **fewer** cars on the road today.

Less is sometimes used with a plural countable noun (e.g. ... **less cars** ...), particularly in conversation. However, this is grammatically incorrect.

We use **less than** with a noun phrase indicating an amount and **fewer than** with a noun phrase referring to a group of things or people:

- ☐ I used to earn **less than a pound** a week when I first started work.
- ☐ There were **fewer than 20 students** at the lecture. (*or informally* ... **less than** ...; but note that some people think this use of 'less than' is incorrect)

When we talk about a distance or a sum of money we use **less than**, not **fewer than**:

- ☐ The beach is **less than** a mile away.

To emphasise that a number is surprisingly large we can use **no less than** or **no fewer than**:

- ☐ The team has had **no fewer than** ten managers in just five years. (*or* ... **no less than** ...)

Note that we prefer **no less than** with percentages, periods of time and quantities:

- ☐ Profits have increased by **no less than** 95% in the last year. (*rather than* ... no fewer than ...)

Exercises

52.1 Complete the sentences with **(a) few**, **(a) little**, **the few**, **the little**, **what few** or **what little**, giving alternatives where possible. **A & B**

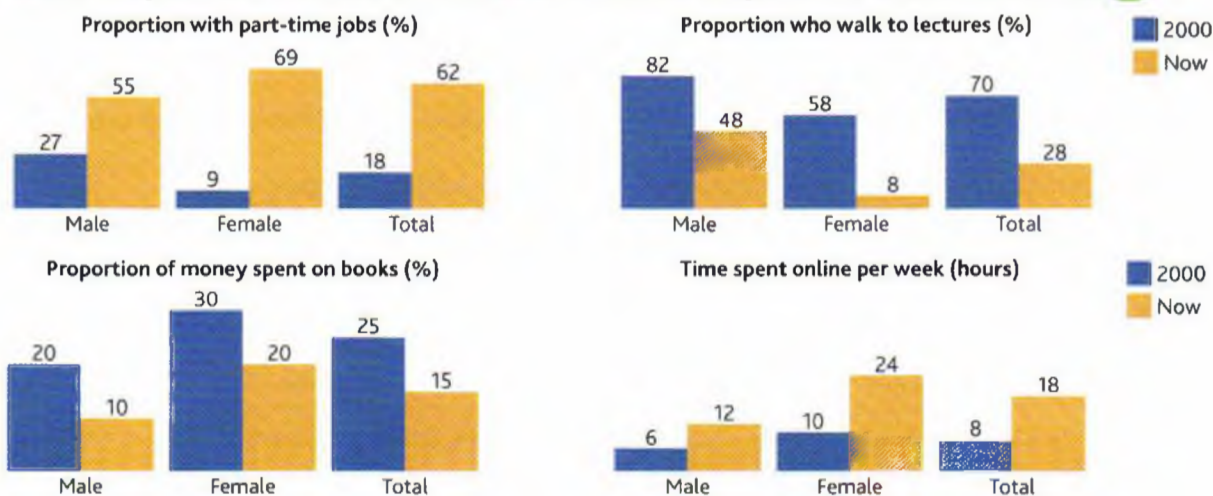
- 1 Thomas was named sportsperson of the year, and would disagree.
- 2 remains of the old castle walls except the Black Gate.
- 3 She called her remaining relatives together and told them she was leaving.
- 4 Simpson is among foreign journalists allowed into the country.
- 5 A: Has my explanation helped? B:, yes.
- 6 belongings she had were packed into a small suitcase.
- 7 Maya hasn't been looking well recently, and I'm worried about her.
- 8 A: Have there been many applications for the job? B: Yes, quite
- 9 The children weren't well so I had to take days off.
- 10 I don't have much money, but I'm happy to lend you I have.

52.2 Suggest changes to the italicised text in these examples from conversations (1–4) and from academic writing (5–8). **C**

- 1 A: Did you do anything last night? B: I just watched a *little* TV and then went to bed.
- 2 Take some sweets if you want, although *there are few* left.
- 3 I've tried to help her, but *there's little more* I can do.
- 4 See that old car over there? *There's few like that* left now.

- 5 The country *hasn't had many* female politicians since independence.
- 6 It is thought that the two leaders *didn't exchange many words* on their first meeting.
- 7 Teachers were found to be *a bit more confident* after the extra training.
- 8 *There doesn't seem to be much prospect* of ever recovering the missing manuscript.

52.3 A survey of British university students was conducted in 2000 and recently repeated. Some of the results are given below. Comment on them in sentences using **fewer (than)** or **less (than)**. **D**



- 1 Proportion with part-time jobs (%)
Fewer students had a part-time job in 2000 than now.
- 2 Proportion of money spent on books (%)
- 3 Proportion who walk to lectures (%)
- 4 Time spent online per week (hours)

Are there any results that surprise you? Comment on them using **no less than** or **no fewer than**.