

Large/small > 166-167	Whole/part > B-H
<i>I found a lot of information on the Internet.</i> (a large amount)	<i>But a lot of the information I found wasn't very helpful.</i> (a large part)
<i>We didn't see many protesters on the streets.</i> (a large number)	<i>Many of the protesters were wearing masks.</i> (a large part of the group)
<i>The artist sold a few paintings.</i> (a small number)	<i>The artist sold a few of his paintings.</i> (a small part of the total)
<i>Some pages were missing.</i> (a number)	<i>Some of the pages were missing.</i> (a part of the total) <i>Some of the book was missing.</i> (a part)
We can use an uncountable noun (information) or a plural noun (protesters, paintings, pages) when expressing large or small quantities.	We often use <i>of</i> + determiner (the, his) + noun. As well as an uncountable or a plural noun, we can also use a singular noun (book).

In B-H there are some examples of how to express whole and part quantities. Some of these forms are dealt with in more detail in 169-174.

**B The whole**

*All (of) the tickets have been sold.* > 169B  
*The whole (of the) show will be televised live.* > 169D  
*Every seat will be occupied.* > 171

**C The greater part**

*I slept through most of the film.* > 169A-B

**D A large part**

*A lot of the passengers on the plane were backpackers.*  
*Many of the spectators left before the end.*  
*I spend much of my time playing golf.*

**E A part**

*I answered some of the exam questions.* > 172D  
*I did part of the exam.* > 172C

**F Numbers**

*About a hundred of the spectators left before the end.*  
*I answered six of the exam questions.*  
*Two of the apples have gone bad.*

**G A small part**

*A few of the apples have gone bad.*  
*Can you eat a little of this cake?*  
*We'll only miss a bit of our holiday.*  
*Not many of the motorists were carrying passengers.*  
*You haven't read much of that book yet.*

**H No part**

*None of my friends went to the party.* > 169B  
*I don't like any of these colours.*

**169 All, most, half, none, and whole**

**A** We can use *all/most* before a plural or uncountable noun to make a generalization.

*All rabbits love green food.*  
*Most banks have cash machines.*  
*Most pollution could be avoided.*

These sentences are about rabbits, banks, and pollution in general.

Compare these examples.

*Most people just want a quiet life.* (people in general)  
*Most of the people here are strangers to me.* (a specific group of people)

As well as *most*, we can also use *a/the majority of* and *more than half*.

*A/The majority of banks have cash machines.*  
*More than half (of) the pollution in the world could be avoided.*

The opposite is *a minority of* or *less than half*.

*A minority of banks have no cash machine.*

**NOTE**

a *All* + noun is sometimes used on written instructions about what people have to do.  
*All tickets must be shown. All visitors report to Reception.*

b For a generalization with a plural noun on its own, e.g. *Rabbits love green food.*

**B** When we are talking about something more specific, we use:

*all/most/half/none* + *of* + determiner + noun.  
*All (of) our rabbits died from some disease.*  
*Most of the pubs around here serve food.* (NOT *the-most-of-the-pubs*)  
*I got the photocopying done at half (of) the normal price.*  
*None of these jackets fit me any more.*

In this pattern we cannot leave out *of* after *most* or *none*.

We can leave out *of* after *all* and *half*. But before a pronoun such as *it* or *them*, we always use *of*.

*We had some rabbits, but all of them died.*  
*I read the book, but I couldn't understand half of it.*

We can use *a / an* with *half*.

*We waited half an hour. I ate half a slice of toast.*

Some nouns can follow *a half*, e.g. *a half hour, a half day*.

*I work a half day on Thursdays.*

But this pattern has a more limited use than *half an hour* or *half a day*.

We can use *all* after an object pronoun.

*The rabbits died. We lost them all / all of them.*

It can also come in mid position or after the subject.

*These pictures are all quite valuable.*

*The rabbits all died. / They all died.*

We cannot use *most* in mid position, but we can use *mostly*.

*The pubs around here mostly serve food.*

(= Most of the pubs around here serve food.)

**NOTE**

For *all* without a noun or pronoun, > 174B.

**C** *None* means 'not any of the group'. We use it with the *of*-structure.

*None of the rabbits survived. I'm afraid they all died.*  
(NOT *All of the rabbits didn't survive.*)

*Not all* means 'fewer/less than all'.

*Not all (of) the rabbits died. Some of them survived.*

**NOTE**

For *no* and *none*, > 174C.

**D** We can use *whole* as an adjective before a singular noun.

*Did you listen to the whole tape?* (NOT *the-~~all~~-tape*)  
*This whole idea is completely crazy.* (NOT *this-~~all~~-idea*)  
*You didn't eat a whole chicken!*

We can also use *whole* as a noun.

*Did you listen to the whole of the tape?*

Compare these examples.

*We spent all day / the whole day on the beach.*  
(We were there from morning till evening.)  
*We spent every day on the beach.* (every day of our holiday)

**170 Both, either, and neither**

**A** We use these words for two things.

*The police set up barriers at both ends of the street.* (the one and the other)  
*If you're ambidextrous, you can write with either hand.*  
(the one or the other)  
*Neither of the twins is an especially attractive child.*  
(not the one and not the other)

**B** Compare the meaning of *both/neither* and *all/none*.

	Positive	Negative
Two:	<i>Both prisoners escaped.</i>	<i>Neither of the prisoners escaped.</i>
Three or more:	<i>All the prisoners escaped.</i>	<i>None of the prisoners escaped.</i>

**C** We use *both* before a plural noun.

*Both houses are for sale.*  
We can also use it before a determiner or with the *of*-structure.  
*Both (of) the houses are for sale.*  
*Both (of) these letters have been incorrectly addressed.*  
*Both (of) her parents are alcoholics.*

But we do NOT say *the-both-houses*.

We can use *both* after an object pronoun.

*Two prisoners escaped, but the police caught them both / both of them.*

It can also come in mid position or after the subject.

*The teams are both confident of victory.*  
*The girls both enjoyed themselves./They both enjoyed themselves.*

**NOTE**

For the pattern *both her mother, and her father*, > 233E.

**D** We use *either* and *neither* before a singular noun.

*Either way is as good as the other.*  
*Neither car is very economical to run.*

We can also use them in the *of*-structure with a plural noun.

*Is/Are either of your sisters married?*  
*Neither of our cars is/are very economical to run.*

In positions other than the subject, we usually use *either* rather than *neither*.

*I don't like either of those pictures.*

This is more usual than *I like neither of those pictures*. But we use *neither* in the subject of a negative sentence.

*Neither of those pictures appeals to me.*  
(NOT *Either/Both of these pictures don't appeal to me.*)

**171 Every and each**

**A** We use *every* and *each* before a singular noun to mean all the members of a group.

*There were flags flying from every/each building.*  
*Mike grew more nervous with every/each minute that passed.*

A subject with *every* and *each* has a singular verb.

*Every/Each customer is greeted at the door.*