

All (of), whole, every, each

Reminder → 143–146

A

All (of)

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.