

All, every, and whole

A

All and everybody/everyone

We do not normally use **all** to mean **everybody/everyone**:

- Everybody enjoyed the party. (*not* All enjoyed)

But note that we say **all of us/you/them**, not “everybody of . . .”:

- All of us enjoyed the party. (*not* everybody of us)

B

All and everything

Sometimes you can use **all** or **everything**:

- I'll do all I can to help. *or* I'll do everything I can to help.

You can say **all I can / all you need**, etc., but we do not normally use **all** alone:

- He thinks he knows **everything**. (*not* he knows all)
- Our vacation was a disaster. **Everything** went wrong. (*not* All went wrong)

We use **all** in the expression **all about**:

- They told us **all about** their vacation.

We also use **all** (*not* everything) to mean *the only thing(s)*:

- All I've eaten today is a sandwich. (= the only thing I've eaten today)

C

Every/everybody/everyone/everything are *singular* words, so we use a *singular* verb:

- Every seat in the theater was taken.
- Everyone has arrived. (*not* have arrived)

But we often use **they/them/their** after **everybody/everyone**:

- Everybody said **they** enjoyed themselves. (= he or she enjoyed himself or herself)

D

Whole

Whole = complete, entire. Most often we use **whole** with singular nouns:

- Did you read the **whole** book? (= all of the book, not just a part of it)
- She has lived her **whole** life in Chile.
- Jack was so hungry, he ate a **whole** package of cookies. (= a complete package)

We do not normally use **whole** with *uncountable* nouns. We say:

- I've spent all the money you gave me. (*not* the whole money)

E

Every/all/whole with time words

We use **every** to say how often something happens. So we say **every day / every Monday / every ten minutes / every three weeks**, etc.:

- When we were on vacation, we went to the beach **every day**. (*not* all days)
- The bus service is very good. There's a bus **every ten minutes**.
- Ann gets paid **every two weeks**.

All day / the whole day = the complete day from beginning to end:

- We spent **all day / the whole day** on the beach.
- He was very quiet. He didn't say a word **all night / the whole night**.

Note that we say **all day** (*not* all the day), **all week** (*not* all the week), etc.

Compare **all the time** and **every time**:

- They never go out. They are at home **all the time**. (= always)
- **Every time** I see you, you look different. (= each time, on every occasion)

Exercises

87.1 Complete these sentences with *all*, *everything*, or *everybody/everyone*.

1. It was a good party. Everyone enjoyed it.
2. All I've eaten today is a sandwich.
3. _____ has their faults. Nobody is perfect.
4. Nothing has changed. _____ is the same as it was.
5. Kate told me _____ about her new job. It sounds very interesting.
6. Can _____ write their names on a piece of paper, please?
7. Why are you always thinking about money? Money isn't _____.
8. I didn't have much money with me. _____ I had was ten dollars.
9. When the fire alarm rang, _____ left the building immediately.
10. We all did well on the exam. _____ in our class passed.
11. We all did well on the exam. _____ of us passed.
12. Why are you so lazy? Why do you expect me to do _____ for you?

87.2 Write sentences with *whole*.

1. I read the book from beginning to end. I read the whole book.
2. Everyone on the team played well. The _____.
3. Paul opened a box of chocolates. When he finished eating, there were no chocolates left in the box. He ate _____.
4. The police came to the house. They were looking for something. They searched everywhere, in every room. They _____.
5. Everyone in Dave and Kelly's family plays tennis. Dave and Kelly play, and so do all their children. The _____.
6. Ann worked from early in the morning until late at night.
Ann _____.
7. Jack and Lisa went on vacation to the beach for a week. It rained from the beginning of the week to the end. It _____.

Now write sentences 6 and 7 again using *all* instead of *whole*.

8. (6) Ann _____.
9. (7) _____.

87.3 Complete these sentences using *every* with one of the following:

five minutes ten minutes four hours six months four years

1. The bus service is very good. There's a bus every ten minutes.
2. Tom is sick. He has some medicine. He has to take it _____.
3. The Olympic Games take place _____.
4. We live near a busy airport. A plane flies over our house _____.
5. It's a good idea to have a checkup with the dentist _____.

87.4 Which is the correct alternative?

1. I spent ~~the whole money~~ / all the money you gave me. (*all the money* is correct)
2. Sue works every day / ~~all days~~ except Sunday.
3. I'm tired. I've been working hard all the day / ~~all day~~.
4. It was a terrible fire. Whole building / ~~The whole building~~ was destroyed.
5. I've been trying to call her, but every time / ~~all the time~~ I call, the line is busy.
6. I don't like the weather here. It rains every time / ~~all the time~~.
7. When I was on vacation, all my luggage / ~~my whole luggage~~ was stolen.