

# Quantifiers

## Quantifiers

We use quantifiers when we want to give someone information about the number of something: how much or how many.

Sometimes we use a quantifier in the place of a determiner:

Most children start school at the age of five.

We ate some bread and butter.

We saw lots of birds.

## Quantifiers with count and uncount nouns

We can use these quantifiers with both count and uncount nouns:

all      some    more    a lot of    enough

no      any      most    lots of    less

We have lots of time.

Joe has lots of friends.

I can't go out. I've got no money.

There was a lot of food but no drinks.

These more colloquial forms are also used with both count and uncount nouns:

plenty of      heaps of      a load of      loads of      tons of

We have loads of time.

Joe has plenty of friends.

There was heaps of food.

## some and any

We do not normally use the quantifier some in negative and interrogative sentences. We normally use any:

Do you have any children?

Did you see any friends?

We don't have any children.

I didn't see any friends.

We saw some lions at the zoo, but we didn't see any tigers.

but we can use some for offers and requests:

Would you like some tea?

I want some apples, please.

#### Quantifiers with count nouns

Some quantifiers can be used only with count nouns:

(not) many    each    either    (a) few

several    both    neither    fewer

These more colloquial forms are used only with count nouns:

a couple of    hundreds of    thousands of

I'll be back in a couple of minutes.

There were hundreds of people at the meeting.

#### Quantifiers with uncount nouns

Some quantifiers can be used only with uncount nouns:

(not) much    a bit of    a little

Would you like a little wine?

Could I have a bit of butter, please?

These quantifiers are used particularly with abstract nouns such as time, money and trouble:

a great deal of   a good deal of

It will probably cost a great deal of money.

He spent a good deal of time watching television.

### Members of groups

We put a noun directly after a quantifier when we are talking about members of a group in general:

Few snakes are dangerous.

Most children like chocolate.

I never have enough money.

but if we are talking about members of a specific group, we use of the as well:

Few of the snakes in this zoo are dangerous.

Most of the boys at my school play football.

He's spent all (of) the money that we gave him.

Both (of) the chairs in my office are broken.

Note: with all and both, we don't need to use of. We can say all the ... and both the ... .

### both, either and neither

If we are talking about two people or things, we use the quantifiers both, either and neither:

One supermarket

Two supermarkets

More than two supermarkets

The supermarket

was closed.

Both the supermarkets were closed.

All the supermarkets were closed.

The supermarket wasn't open.

Neither of the supermarkets was open.

None of the supermarkets were open.

I don't think the supermarket was open.

I don't think either of the supermarkets was open.

I don't think any of the supermarkets were open.

Note that nouns with both have a plural verb but nouns with either and neither have a singular verb.

### every and each

We use the quantifiers every and each with singular nouns to mean all:

There was a party in every street. (= There were parties in all the streets.)

Every shop was decorated with flowers. (= All the shops were decorated with flowers.)

Each child was given a prize. (= All the children were given a prize.)

There was a prize in each competition. (= There were prizes in all the competitions.)

We often use every to talk about times like days, weeks and years:

When we were children, we had holidays at our grandmother's every year.

When we stayed at my grandmother's house, we went to the beach every day.

We visit our daughter every Christmas.

We do not use a determiner with every and each:

Every shop was decorated with flowers. (NOT The every shop)

Each child was given a prize. (NOT The each child)

## Possessives

### Possessives: nouns

We add 's to singular nouns to show possession:

We are having a party at John's house.

Michael drove his friend's car.

We add ' to plural nouns ending in -s:

This is my parents' house.

Those are ladies' shoes.

But we use 's with irregular plural nouns:

men    women children    people

These are men's shoes.

Children's clothes are very expensive.

We can use a possessive instead of a full noun phrase to avoid repeating words:

Is that John's car?

No, it's Mary's. (NOT No, it's Mary's [car].)

Whose coat is this?

It's my wife's. (NOT It's my wife's [coat].)

### **Possessives: adjectives**

Subject	Object	Possessive adjective
I	me	my
you	you	your
he	him	his
she	her	her
it	it	its
we	us	our
they	them	their

We use possessive adjectives:

to show something belongs to somebody:

That's our house.

My car is very old.

for relations and friends:

My mother is a doctor.

How old is your sister?

for parts of the body:

He's broken his arm.

She's washing her hair.

I need to clean my teeth.

### **Possessives: pronouns**

Subject	Object	Possessive adjective	Possessive pronoun
I	me	my	mine
you	you	your	yours
he	him	his	his
she	her	her	hers
it	it	its	-
we	us	our	ours
they	them	their	theirs

Be careful!

Possessive pronouns do not have an apostrophe:

Is that car yours/hers/ours/theirs?

(NOT Is that car your's/her's/our's/their's?)

We can use a possessive pronoun instead of a full noun phrase to avoid repeating words:

Is that John's car?

No, it's mine. (NOT No, it's [my car].)

Whose coat is this?

Is it yours? (NOT Is it [your coat]?)

Her coat is grey.

Mine is brown. (NOT [My coat] is brown.)

We can use possessive pronouns and nouns after of. We can say:

Susan is one of my friends. > Susan is a friend of mine.

(NOT Susan is a friend of me.)

I am one of Susan's friends. > I am a friend of Susan's.

(NOT I am a friend of Susan.)

### **Possessives: questions**

We use whose to ask questions about possession:

Pattern A

Pattern B

Whose coat is this? or

Whose is this coat?

Whose book is that? or

Whose is that book?

Whose pens are those? or

Whose are those pens?

Whose bags are those? or

Whose are those bags?

Be careful!

Be careful not to confuse whose and who's (= who is). They are pronounced in the same way but spelled differently:

Whose coat is this?

Who's (= Who is) Stefan?

### Possessives: reciprocal pronouns

When two or more people do the same thing, we can use the possessive forms of the reciprocal pronouns each other's and one another's:

They helped to look after each other's children.

## Adjectives

### Where adjectives go in a sentence

We use adjectives to describe nouns.

Most adjectives can be used in front of a noun:

They have a beautiful house.

We saw a very exciting film last night.

or after a link verb like be, look or feel:

Their house is beautiful.

That film looks interesting.

### Adjectives with '-ing' and '-ed'

A lot of adjectives are made from verbs by adding -ing or -ed:

#### -ing adjectives

The commonest -ing adjectives are:

amusing

annoying

boring

disappointing

exciting

interesting      frightening

tiring

shocking

surprising

worrying

If you say something is interesting, you mean it interests you:

I read a very interesting article in the newspaper today.

If you say something is terrifying, you mean it terrifies you:

That Dracula film was absolutely terrifying.

### -ed adjectives

The commonest -ed adjectives are:

annoyed

bored

closed

delighted

disappointed

excited

frightened

tired

worried

If something bores you, you can say you feel bored.

We had nothing to do. We were really bored.

If something terrifies you, you can say you are terrified.

I didn't really enjoy the Dracula film. Most of the time I was terrified.

### **Adjective order**

#### **Two adjectives**

We often have two adjectives in front of a noun:

a handsome young man

a big black car

that horrible big dog

Some adjectives give a general opinion. We can use these adjectives to describe almost any noun:

good

bad

lovely

strange nice

beautiful

brilliant

excellent

awful

important

wonderful

nasty

He's a good/wonderful/brilliant/bad/dreadful teacher.

That's a good/wonderful/brilliant/bad/dreadful book.

We usually put a general opinion in front of a specific opinion:

nice tasty soup

a nasty uncomfortable armchair

a lovely intelligent animal

We usually put an opinion adjective in front of a descriptive adjective:

a nice red dress

a silly old man

those horrible yellow curtains

### Adjectives after link verbs

We use some adjectives only after a link verb:

afraid

alive

alone

asleep

content

glad

ill

ready

sorry

sure

unable

well

Some of the commonest -ed adjectives are normally used only after a link verb:

annoyed

bored

finished

pleased

thrilled

We say:

Our teacher was ill.

My uncle was very glad when he heard the news.

The policeman seemed to be very annoyed.

but we do not say:

We had an ill teacher.

When he heard the news he was a very glad uncle.

He seemed to be a very annoyed policeman.

# Comparative and superlative adjectives

## Comparative adjectives

We use **comparative adjectives** to show change or make comparisons:

*This car is certainly **better**, but it's much **more expensive**.*

*I'm feeling **happier** now.*

*We need a **bigger** garden.*

We use *than* when we want to **compare one thing with another**:

*She is two years older **than** me.*

*New York is much bigger **than** Boston.*

*He is a better player **than** Ronaldo.*

*France is a bigger country **than** Britain.*

When we want to **describe how something or someone changes** we can use two comparatives with *and*:

*The balloon got **bigger and bigger**.*

*Everything is getting **more and more expensive**.*

*Grandfather is looking **older and older**.*

We often use *the* with comparative adjectives to **show that one thing depends on another**:

***The faster** you drive, **the more dangerous** it is.*

(= When you drive faster, it is more dangerous.)

***The higher** they climbed, **the colder** it got.*

(= When they climbed higher, it got colder.)

## Superlative adjectives

We use *the* with **superlative adjectives**:

*It was **the happiest** day of my life.*

*Everest is **the highest** mountain in the world.*

*That's **the best** film I have seen this year.*

*I have three sisters: Jan is **the oldest** and Angela is **the youngest**.*

## How to form comparative and superlative adjectives

We usually add *-er* and *-est* to **one-syllable words** to make comparatives and superlatives:

<i>old</i>	<i>older</i>	<i>oldest</i>
<i>long</i>	<i>longer</i>	<i>longest</i>

If an adjective **ends in -e**, we add *-r* or *-st*:

<i>nice</i>	<i>nicer</i>	<i>nicest</i>
<i>large</i>	<i>larger</i>	<i>largest</i>

If an adjective **ends in a vowel and a consonant**, we double the consonant:

<i>big</i>	<i>bigger</i>	<i>biggest</i>
<i>fat</i>	<i>fatter</i>	<i>fattest</i>

If an adjective **ends in a consonant and -y**, we change *-y* to *-i* and add *-er* or *-est*:

<i>happy</i>	<i>happier</i>	<i>happiest</i>
<i>silly</i>	<i>sillier</i>	<i>silliest</i>

We use *more* and *most* to make comparatives and superlatives for most two syllable adjectives and for all adjectives with three or more syllables:

<i>careful</i>	<i>more careful</i>	<i>most careful</i>
<i>interesting</i>	<i>more interesting</i>	<i>most interesting</i>

However, with **these common two-syllable adjectives**, you can **either** add *-er/-r* and *-est/-st* or use *more* and *most*:

<i>common</i> <i>cruel</i> <i>gentle</i> <i>handsome</i> <i>likely</i>	<i>narrow</i> <i>pleasant</i> <i>polite</i> <i>simple</i> <i>stupid</i>
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He is certainly **handsomer** than his brother.

His brother is handsome, but he is **more handsome**.

She is one of **the politest** people I have ever met.

She is **the most polite** person I have ever met.

The adjectives **good**, **bad** and **far** have irregular comparatives and superlatives:

<i>good</i>	<i>better</i>	<i>best</i>
<i>bad</i>	<i>worse</i>	<i>worst</i>
<i>far</i>	<i>farther/further</i>	<i>farthest/furthest</i>

# Intensifiers

We use words like *very*, *really* and *extremely* to make adjectives stronger:

*It's a **very** interesting story.*

*Everyone was **very** excited.*

*It's a **really** interesting story.*

*Everyone was **extremely** excited.*

We call these words **intensifiers**. Other intensifiers are:

*amazingly  
exceptionally  
incredibly*

*particularly  
remarkably  
unusually*

We also use *enough* to say more about an adjective,  
but *enough* comes **after** its adjective:

*If you are seventeen, you are **old enough** to drive a car.*

*I can't wear those shoes. They're not **big enough**.*

## Intensifiers with strong adjectives

Strong adjectives are words like:

<b>very big</b>	<i>enormous, huge</i>
<b>very small</b>	<i>tiny</i>
<b>very clever</b>	<i>brilliant</i>
<b>very bad</b>	<i>awful, terrible, disgusting, dreadful</i>

<b>very sure</b>	<i>certain</i>
<b>very good</b>	<i>excellent, perfect, ideal, wonderful, splendid</i>
<b>very tasty</b>	<i>delicious</i>

We do **not** normally use *very* with these adjectives. We do not say something is ~~very enormous~~ or someone is ~~very brilliant~~.

With strong adjectives, we normally use intensifiers like:

<i>absolutely</i> <i>completely</i> <i>exceptionally</i> <i>particularly</i>	<i>really</i> <i>quite</i> <i>totally</i> <i>utterly</i>
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*The film was **absolutely awful**.*  
*He was an **exceptionally brilliant** child.*  
*The food smelled **really disgusting**.*

Be careful!

**Level: advanced**

## Intensifiers with particular adjectives

Some intensifiers go with particular adjectives depending on the meaning of the adjective:

*I'm afraid your wife is **dangerously ill**.*  
*The engine was **dangerously hot**.*  
*The car was **seriously damaged**.*

Be careful!

*Fortunately none of the passengers was **seriously hurt**.*

Some intensifiers go with particular adjectives. For example, we use the intensifier *highly* with the adjectives *successful*, *intelligent*, *likely* and *unlikely*:

*He was **highly intelligent**.*

*She's a **highly successful** businesswoman.*

but we do NOT say:

~~*We had a **highly tasty** meal.*~~

~~*That is a **highly good** idea.*~~

We use the intensifier *bitterly* with the adjectives *disappointed*, *unhappy* and *cold*:

*I was **bitterly unhappy** at school.*

*We were **bitterly disappointed** to lose the match.*

*It can get **bitterly cold** in winter.*

You need to use your dictionary to find which nouns these intensifiers go with.

**Level: intermediate**

## Intensifiers with comparatives and superlatives

We use these words and phrases as intensifiers with **comparative adjectives**:

*much*

*far*

*a lot*

*quite a lot*

*a great deal*

*a good deal*

*a good bit*

*a fair bit*

*He is **much older** than me.*

*New York is **a lot bigger** than Boston.*

We use *much* and *far* as intensifiers with **comparative adjectives in front of a noun**:

*France is **a much bigger country** than Britain.*

*He is **a far better player** than Ronaldo.*

We use these words as intensifiers with **superlative adjectives**: *easily*, *by far*, *much*:

*The blue whale is **easily the biggest** animal in the world.*  
*This car was **by far the most expensive**.*

## Adjectives as intensifiers

We use some adjectives as intensifiers with nouns:

*absolute*  
*complete*  
*total*

*perfect*  
*real*  
*utter*

We say:

*He's a **complete** idiot.*  
*They were talking **utter** nonsense.*

but we do NOT say:

~~*The **idiot** was **complete**.*~~  
~~*The **nonsense** they were talking was **utter**.*~~

## Mitigators

Mitigators are the **opposite of intensifiers**. When we want to make an adjective less **strong** we use these words: *fairly, rather, quite*

*By the end of the day, we were **rather** tired.*  
*The film wasn't great, but it was **quite** exciting.*

and in informal English: *pretty*

*We had a **pretty** good time at the party.*

Be careful!

### quite

When we use *quite* with a **normal adjective**, it makes the adjective **less strong**:

*The food was **quite bad**.*  
(= The food was bad but not very bad.)

Be careful!

*My nephew is **quite clever**.*

(= My nephew is clever but not very clever.)

But when we use *quite* with a **strong adjective**, it means the same as ***absolutely***:

*The food was **quite awful**.*

(= The food was absolutely awful.)

*As a child he was **quite brilliant**.*

(= As a child he was absolutely brilliant.)

## Mitigators with comparatives

We use these words and phrases as mitigators:

*a bit*  
*just a bit*  
*a little*  
*a little bit*

*rather*  
*slightly*  
*just a little bit*

*She's **a bit younger** than I am.*

*It takes two hours on the train but it is **a little bit longer** by road.*

*This one is **rather bigger**.*

We use *slightly* and *rather* as mitigators with comparative adjectives in front of a noun:

*This is **a slightly more expensive** model than that.*

*This is **a rather bigger one** than that.*

## Noun modifiers

We often use **two nouns together** to show that **one thing is a part of something else**:

*the **village church***

*the **car door***

*the **kitchen window***

*the **chair leg***

*my **coat pocket***

***London residents***

In these examples, the first noun is called a **noun modifier**.

### Be careful!

We do not use a **possessive form** for these things. We do NOT talk about:

~~*the car's door*~~

~~*the kitchen's window*~~

~~*the chair's leg*~~

We can use noun modifiers to show **what something is made of**:

*a gold watch*

*a leather purse*

*a metal box*

We often use noun modifiers **with nouns ending in -er**:

*an office worker*

*a jewellery maker*

*a potato peeler*

We use **measurements, age or value** as noun modifiers:

*a thirty-kilogram suitcase*

*a two-minute rest*

*a five-thousand-euro platinum watch*

*a fifty-kilometre journey*

We often use **nouns ending in -ing** as noun modifiers:

*a shopping list*

*a swimming lesson*

*a walking holiday*

*a washing machine*

We often put two nouns together and **readers/listeners have to work out** what they mean:

*an ice bucket*

(= a bucket to keep ice in)

*an ice cube*

(= a cube made of ice)

*an ice breaker*

(= a ship which breaks ice)

*the ice age*

(= the time when much of the Earth was covered in ice)

Sometimes we find **more than two nouns** together:

*London office workers*

*grammar practice exercises*

Noun modifiers come **after adjectives**:

*the old newspaper seller*

*a tiring fifty-kilometre journey*

## Basic Vocabulary

### DAYS , MONTHS AND SEASONS

## Days of the Week

The days of the week in English begin with CAPITAL letters.

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday
- Sunday

Saturday and Sunday are known as **the weekend**.

## Months of the Year

The months of the year in English begin with CAPITAL letters.

- January
- February
- March
- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October
- November
- December

## Seasons of the Year

- summer
- winter
- spring
- autumn / fall

**Fall** is used in United States, **Autumn** in the rest of the world.

## Capital Letters

Remember, in English that the first letter of the day or month is **always** in capital letters.

- **January** correct - *january* incorrect
- **Thursday** correct - *thursday* incorrect

Though the first letter of the seasons **does not** begin with a capital letters.

- *Spring* incorrect - **spring** correct

## DINNING ROOM

In the dining room there is usually a dinner table. This is the place where the family usually eat dinner. If you have soup for dinner, or cereal for breakfast you will eat it out of a bowl. If you eat soup, you will use a soup spoon, which is rounder and deeper than a dessert spoon. A soup bowl is sometimes deeper than a cereal bowl.

When you eat dinner, you eat your food off a plate. The table might have a big salad bowl in the middle that you can take salad from.

If you eat a lot of bread your table will probably have a breadbasket, and you might probably also have a butter dish, which is a little plate especially for the butter. A butter knife is a knife that doesn't have a serrated edge, while a steak knife is sharper, and does have teeth (a serrated edge). Most of the time the table has just a knife to cut the food and fork to pick it up and put it in your mouth.

A cup is what you drink tea or coffee out of, but a mug is a bigger, heavier cup. In the morning the part of the coffee machine that contains the liquid is the coffee pot, and the teapot is the pot (usually made of metal) that you brew the tea in. You use the little spoon called a teaspoon for putting sugar in your coffee or tea. You will get the sugar from the sugar bowl. When you drink tea you might use a saucer, which is the little plate that goes with your tea cup. Some people pour milk or cream from a creamer into their coffee or tea.

Sometimes in the morning you just have a glass of juice, and some families have a large jug or a pitcher of juice on the table, because a jug holds more liquid.

For afternoon tea, you might have a cake on a cake stand, which is a raised flat plate that you put the cake on. Sometimes people use a small plate called a side dish, for the cake. Usually there is always a little piece of paper called a napkin or serviette, so you can wipe your mouth (or your fingers) after you eat the cake or other food.

Cutlery is generic term for spoons, forks, and knives, and a placemat is the piece of material you put on the table under your plates and cutlery to protect the tablecloth that covers the table. But, for putting under your glass, cup or mug, you use a coaster, not a placemat!

The silverware doesn't have to be made of silver, but it includes the candlestick and sometimes the cutlery too. For a romantic dinner you will usually use candles to have a little bit of light, or you might have a chandelier - the big old style lights that hang from the ceiling.

When you want to drink wine, you usually drink from a wine glass, which is different from a champagne flute which is tall and thin especially used for champagne.

Before you sit down, make sure the pepper shaker (for the pepper) and the salt shaker (for the salt) are both on the table.

If you like flowers, the centerpiece of the table might be a vase of flowers in the middle of the table.

In an expensive restaurant the waiter may use the little cart with wheels called a serving cart, to bring your food to the table. You probably use a serving platter at home, which is a big platter to carry a few different types of food on it, maybe in bowls or on plates or if at a party, it might be food for eating with your fingers.

You might be surprised that we sometimes have china on the table. China is not just a country, china or chinaware is also the name we use for fine porcelain. Most people don't use it everyday, instead they keep it in the china cabinet. The buffet is where we might keep the other cups and plates.

Finally, before you ask people to come to the table, make sure there is a chair for each person to sit on!

## MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY

### Immediate Family

Masculine	Feminine
father	mother
son	daughter
brother	sister
husband	wife

When you have children, you are a **parent**.

If you are a male parent, you are a **father**.

If you are female parent, you are a **mother**.

If one of your children is a boy, he is your **son**.

If one of your children is a girl, she is your **daughter**.

When a couple gets married, the man is the **husband**, and the woman is his **wife**.

A **brother** and **sister** both have the same parents.

One collective word to describe brothers and sisters is **siblings**. However this word is normally only used in written English, not orally.

### Different Generations

Masculine	Feminine
Forefathers	
Great-great grandfather	Great-great grandmother
Great grandfather	Great grandmother
Grandfather	Grandmother
<b>Father</b>	<b>Mother</b>
Son	Daughter
Grandson	Granddaughter
Great grandson	Great granddaughter
Great-great grandson	Great-great granddaughter
Descendents	

### Relatives and Extended Family

**grandparents:** the parents of your parents

**grandfather:** the father of your father/mother

**grandmother:** the mother of your father/mother

**grandchildren:** the children of your children  
**grandson:** the son of one of your children  
**granddaughter:** the daughter of one of your children  
**great grandfather:** the father of your grandfather/grandmother  
**great grandmother:** the mother of your grandfather/grandmother

**uncle:** the brother (or brother-in-law) of your mother/father  
**aunt:** the sister (or sister-in-law) of your mother/father  
**cousin:** the child of your aunt/uncle  
**nephew:** the male child of your brother/sister  
**niece:** the female child of your brother/sister

## The In-Laws

The in-laws are the members of the family of your spouse (the person you are married to) or via a marriage in your family:

**father-in-law:** the father of your spouse  
**mother-in-law:** the mother of your spouse  
**son-in-law:** the husband of your daughter  
**daughter-in-law:** the wife of your son  
**brother-in-law:** the husband of your sister  
**sister-in-law:** the wife of your brother

Note: To refer to more than one brother-in-law or sister-in-law etc. we have an S to the brother/sister part.

e.g. My brothers-in-law are fun. My sisters-in-laws are crazy.

## The Family Mix

Nowadays in many countries a person can get married more than once. These are the terms used to describe the "new" members of the family when someone gets remarried.

"Step-" means that you are related as a result of one parent marrying again

**stepfather:** the (new) husband of your mother but not your biological father  
**stepmother:** the (new) wife of your father but not your biological mother  
**stepson:** the son of your (new) husband / wife (he is not your biological son)  
**stepdaughter:** the daughter of your (new) husband / wife (she is not your biological daughter)  
**stepsister:** the daughter of your stepmother or stepfather  
**stepbrother:** the son of your stepmother or stepfather

Sometimes one of your parents gets married again and they have more children. There

**half-brother:** the brother you have only one parent in common with .  
**half-sister:** the sister you only have one parent in common with.

Even if your parent didn't get married (and had the child outside of marriage), they are still your half-brother or half-sister.

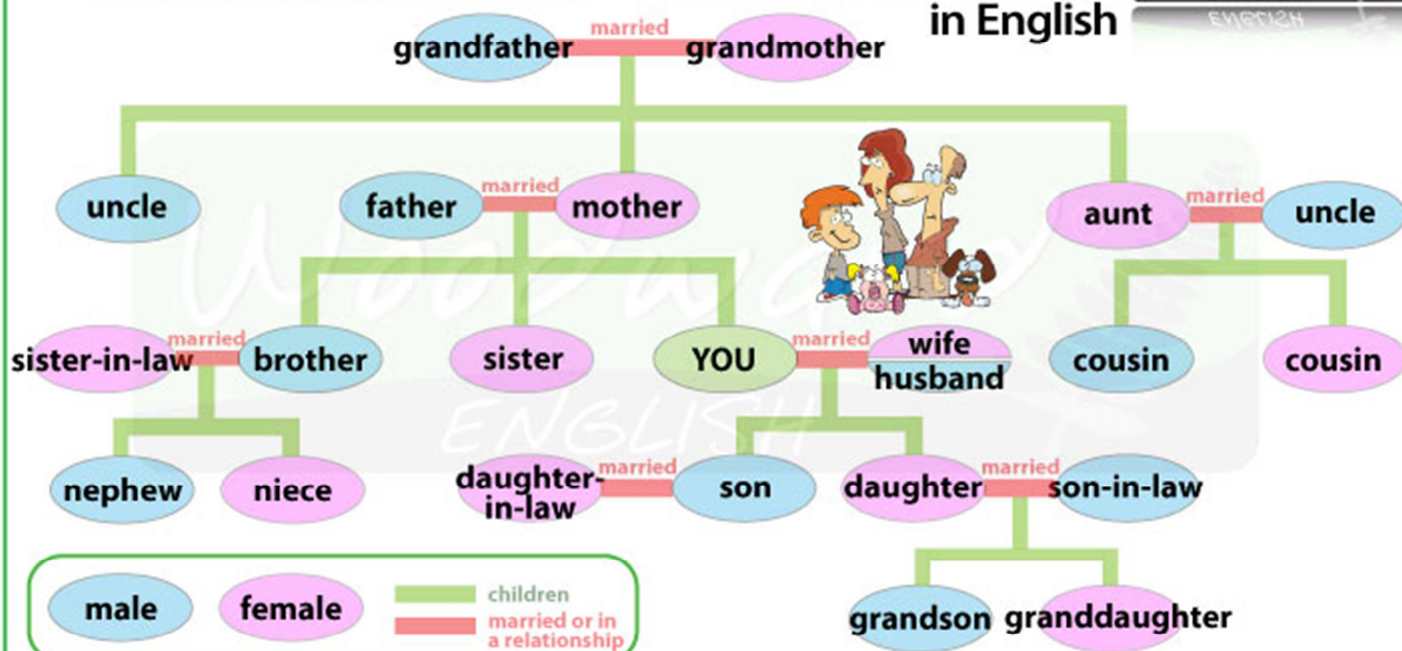
However, note that it is common to still call your half-brother or half-sister just your brother or sister (without adding the half- part).

Check out this chart comparing the relationships between different members of the family:



# MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY

in English



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## FREE TIME ACTIVITIES

Free time = The time when you are not working, when you can choose what you do.

Free time = leisure time

What do you do in your free time?

## General Free Time Activities

**Go to the cinema** - to see Hollywood blockbuster movies, Bollywood movies (from India), art films, animated films. You can also say **go to the movies**.

Some film categories are: Comedy, Drama, Horror, Thriller, Action, Science Fiction (Sci-Fi), Fantasy, Documentary, Musical.

**Watch TV** - Different types of television programs are: The News, Soap Operas, Criminal Investigation Dramas, Medical Dramas, Reality TV, Situation Comedies (Sit-Coms), Talk Shows, Documentaries, Cartoons, Game Shows, Sports programs, Movies, Political programs, Religious programs.

**Spend time with family** - You can do many things with your family. Usually, the fact that you are together is more important than the activity.

**Go out with friends** - You can also do many things with your friends, like go out to a bar, go dancing at a club, have dinner at a restaurant, play a sport, sit down and talk, go out for a coffee, have a barbecue, or any other activity that you all enjoy. Or sometimes when you don't do anything specific, you can say **hang out with friends**.

**Surf the internet** - On the internet, you can research a topic you are interested in using a search engine, visit your favourite websites, watch music videos, create your own video and upload it for other people to see, maintain contact with your friends using a social networking site, write your thoughts in a blog, learn what is happening in the world by reading news websites, etc.

**Play video games** - You can play games on your computer or on a game consoles, like PlayStation, X-Box, Wii, PSP, Gameboy, etc. You can play on your own or with your friends or family.

**Play a musical instrument** - Learn to play the piano, guitar, violin, cello, flute, piano accordion, mouth organ, panpipes, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, etc. You can play on your own or with a group, such as a band or an orchestra.

**Listen to music** - Turn up the volume and listen to your favourite type of music, such as pop, rock, hip hop, rhythm & blues, blues, jazz, classical, soul, heavy metal.

**Read** - Many people love to read both fiction and non-fiction books and magazines. If you like fiction, you can read novels, short stories, crime fiction, romance, etc. If you like non-fiction, you can read biographies, autobiographies, or books on history, science, philosophy, religion, or any other topic you are interested in.

**Write** - Many people like to write in their diary. Another name for a diary is a journal. You can also write many other things, such as poetry, novels, letters, short stories, etc. (See under Read for more options).

**Go to the park** - You can go to the park alone, with family or with friends. You can take a picnic rug and a picnic basket and have a picnic. You can read, sleep, kick a football around, climb trees or play on the children's playground.

**Go to cultural locations and events** - There are many types of cultural locations and events. You can go to the museum, to an art gallery or to the zoo to see animals from around the world. You can go to concerts, plays, musicals, dance recitals and opera performances.

**Go shopping** - Many people like to go to shopping malls and areas of the city that are known for shopping to buy clothes or items for their houses and gardens.

**Cook** - Many people like to cook different types of food. You can make meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner. You can bake cakes, cookies, slices and pastries in the oven. Some people boast that they have a special recipe - ask them to cook it for you!

**Study something** - There are many things that you can study just because you find it interesting! You can study a language; you can learn a skill, such as cooking or making furniture; or you can even study the hieroglyphs of the ancient Egyptians, if you want to!

**Art and crafts** - There are many, many arts and crafts that you can learn and practice. You can paint, draw, sew, crochet, knit, sculpt, engrave, make furniture, make jewelry, or you can even create your own new art form!

**Gardening** - You can plant flowers, vegetables or herbs and maintain your garden by watering it, pulling the weeds and feeding it with fertilizer.

**Exercise and play a sport** - To stay fit and healthy, you can do exercise alone, such as swimming or working out at a gym, or you can play a team sport, such as football or basketball. For more information on sports and exercise, go to our [Sports](#) Page.

# Free Time Activities

English Vocabulary

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ENGLISH

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Watch TV



Go to the movies



Play video games



Listen to music



Read



Surf the internet



Play an instrument



Go shopping



Do/Play sport



Spend time with the family



Go out with friends



Study

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## FRUIT

### Grammatically, do you say *Fruit* or *Fruits*?

The word *Fruit* is a noun. The word is an exception where the noun is both countable and uncountable. So the plural of Fruit can be either Fruit OR Fruits.

When we think of Fruit as a group collectively and in a non-specific way, then we tend to use the word Fruit (without S).

- You should eat five servings of fruit and vegetables every day.
- Fruit is good for your health.
- Would you like some fruit?
- There isn't much fresh fruit available in winter.

If you are emphasising the different kinds of fruit, then you can use *fruits*.

- My three favorite fruits are bananas, melons and strawberries.
- The supermarket has a wide selection of exotic fruits such as Papaya and Mango.
- The juice is made from a variety of fresh fruits.
- I love oranges and other citrus fruits.

If you are not sure which to use, the safest thing is to just use *Fruit* all the time.

### List of Fruit in English

- apple
- apricot
- avocado - the plural is *avocados* though you may see *avocadoes* (less frequently).
- banana
- blackberry
- blackcurrant
- blueberry
- boysenberry - is a cross between a raspberry and a blackberry
- cherry
- coconut
- fig
- grape
- grapefruit
- kiwifruit - sometimes written as two words *kiwi fruit*. It has the same form in singular and plural *kiwifruit*.
- lemon
- lime
- lychee - sometimes called *litchi* in US English
- mandarin
- mango - the plural of mango can be either *mangos* or *mangoes*.
- melon - the generic name for most types of melon
- nectarine - the same as a peach but without fur on its skin
- orange
- papaya - In some countries it is called *pawpaw*.
- passion fruit - In United States it is written as two words while in some countries it is written as one word: *passionfruit*. The plural of passion fruit is either *passion fruit* or *passion fruits*. See our notes about the plural of fruit above.
- peach - same as a nectarine but with a slight fur on its skin

- pear
- pineapple
- plum
- pomegranate
- quince
- raspberry
- strawberry
- watermelon

## Fruits that people think are Vegetables

The following are actually fruits in a botanical sense, though are commonly thought of as vegetables due to their culinary uses:

- avocado, cucumber, eggplant, green beans, peppers, pumpkin, squash, tomato, zucchini

Yes, that's right, the so called vegetables above are in reality fruit, not vegetables.

## A piece of fruit

We often say *a piece of fruit* when we refer to one fruit (one apple, one orange etc) without specifying which one it is.

- She always has a piece of fruit with her breakfast.

## The fruit of something

The fruit (or fruits) of something is an expression which means the good results that you obtain from something such as hard work.

- The award he received is the fruit of his hard work and always trying to do his best.





## LIVING ROOM

Sometimes the living room is called a **lounge**. There are many things in a typical living room:

A **bookcase** is not only a place to put your books, but also the shelves can be used to display other things that are important to you. Often people place **photos** or **pictures** on bookcases.

The words photos and pictures can be used interchangeably, but a picture also has the potential to be a **painting**, where as a photo does not. Photos are often placed inside of **picture frames** that can either hang on a **wall** or sit on a shelf.

It is often common to place books and pictures on your **coffee table**, a large low table in front of the **sofa**. Another option is to place a small potted **plant** or **vase of flowers** on your coffee table, but not so large that you can't see over it to watch **television** or talk to another person.

Unlike a coffee table a **side table** is normally much higher so that people sitting on the **sofa** (for two or more people) or **armchair** (for one person) can easily place a glass or other object on the table. It is always next to the seat or placed in between two seats.

A side table is also a good location to place a **lamp**. A **lampshade** helps direct the light downward to help you see well.

People also like to decorate the **windows** in a room by hanging **curtains** on the wall, but sometimes these are also referred to as **drapes**. The curtains are not only decorations but also help keep the light out of the room, along with the **shades** that are placed in the windows.

Many homes have **carpet** on the floor of the living room. A carpet goes from one wall to the other, covering the entire floor. **Rugs** on the other hand cover a small area of the floor and are placed over a wooden or tiled floor to create a warmer feeling.

Some living rooms include a **writing table**, which is similar to a desk, but are often smaller.

**Couch** is another name for **sofa**. A fancy name for a sofa is called a settee. A **settee** is normally an antique.

A **loveseat** is a piece of furniture that is smaller than a couch and larger than a chair, just big enough for two people to sit on.

An **armchair** is the name for a type of chair that is large and comfortable in a living room. It normally has large padded cushions.

**Pillows** are smaller than **cushions**, which are the largest soft object on a chair or sofa where a person sits.

The **fireplace** is the area in the room where the fire is placed so that it keeps the room warm, but also allows the smoke to go up the **chimney** and not into the room. When you light the fire it is common to place a **fireguard** in front, so that the warm air still comes through but that children stay safe. The type of wood that is burned for a fire in general is called firewood, but the large pieces are often called **logs**. Above the fireplace is the **mantelpiece**, which is normally a long piece of wood that provides a shelf on which to display things. At **Christmas time** children hang their stockings from the mantelpiece to receive presents from Santa Claus.

Men are generally more concerned with the electronic equipment in the living room rather than the decorations. Today videocassettes are rare; most people now watch DVDs on their **DVD players** rather than **VCRs**. People have also started watching more Blu-ray Discs.

Along with the television and DVD player there is also often a **stereo system** on the shelves of the **wall unit** holding all of the electronics used for entertainment. Of course with the stereo system it is vital to have a good set of **speakers** in order to listen to the music.

The most important part of the living room to most men is the **recliner**. A recliner is a special chair that has the ability to lean backwards so the person sitting in the chair is in a very relaxed position. Often men consider their recliners to be their thrones, as if they were all kings. From the recliner the men use the **remote control** to change the channels on the television or adjust the volume of the music from the stereo.

People often decorate the floors with rugs and the walls with pictures, but they often do not decorate **the ceiling** of the room. Normally the only decoration from the above comes from the lights or the **ceiling fan** which keeps you cool in summer.

### NATIONALITIES

The word 'Nationality' is not often used in spoken English. It is a formal and official word and it appears more frequently in written English. You will find the word 'Nationality' is used a lot in the travel industry and for immigration.

We almost never say: What is your nationality?

We usually say: Where are you from? OR Where do you come from?

To tell someone your nationality you DON'T say: My nationality is Chilean.

You say: I'm Chilean

**ENGLISH VOCABULARY**

**COUNTRY - NATIONALITY**

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ENGLISH

**TO BE + FROM + CITY** I am from Sydney.

**TO BE + FROM + COUNTRY** I am from Australia.

**TO BE + NATIONALITY** I am Australian.



He is **from** **Venice**.

He is **from** **Italy**.

He is **Italian**.



He is **from** **Vancouver**.

He is **from** **Canada**.

He is **Canadian**.

**Where are you from?**

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Singular	Plural
Country	Countries
Nationality	Nationalities

## List of Countries, Nationalities and their Languages

Below is a list of countries with the appropriate nationality. The Language that appears is the main language that is spoken in the country. We have not included all the languages that they may speak in that country.

Country	Nationality (Adjective)	Nationality (Noun)	Language
Afghanistan	Afghan	an Afghan	Dari (Persian) - Pashto
Albania	Albanian	an Albanian	Albanian
Algeria	Algerian	an Algerian	Arabic
Argentina	Argentine Argentinian	an Argentine an Argentinian	Spanish
Australia	Australian	an Australian	English
Austria	Austrian	an Austrian	German
Bangladesh	Bangladeshi	a Bangladeshi	Bengali
Belgium	Belgian	a Belgian	French / Flemish
Bolivia	Bolivian	a Bolivian	Spanish
Botswana	Batswana	a Botswanan	English, Setswana
Brazil	Brazilian	a Brazilian	Portuguese
Bulgaria	Bulgarian	a Bulgarian	Bulgarian
Cambodia	Cambodian	a Cambodian	Cambodian
Cameroon	Cameroonian	a Cameroonian	French / English
Canada	Canadian	a Canadian	English / French
Chile	Chilean	a Chilean	Spanish
China	Chinese	a Chinese person	Chinese
Colombia *	Colombian	a Colombian	Spanish
Costa Rica	Costa Rican	a Costa Rican	Spanish
Croatia	Croatian	a Croat	Croatian
Cuba	Cuban	a Cuban	Spanish
Czech Republic	Czech	a Czech person	Czech
Denmark	Danish	a Dane	Danish
Dominican Republic	Dominican	a Dominican	Spanish
Ecuador	Ecuadorian	an Ecuadorian	Spanish
Egypt	Egyptian	an Egyptian	Arabic
El Salvador	Salvadorian	a Salvadoran	Spanish
England	English	an Englishman	English

		an Englishwoman	
Estonia	Estonian	an Estonian	Estonian
Ethiopia	Ethiopian	an Ethiopian	Amharic
Fiji	Fijian	a Fijian	English, Fijian
Finland	Finnish	a Finn	Finnish
France	French	a Frenchman a Frenchwoman	French
Germany	German	a German	German
Ghana	Ghanaian	a Ghanaian	English
Greece	Greek	a Greek	Greek
Guatemala	Guatemalan	a Guatemalan	Spanish
Haiti	Haitian	a Haitian	French / Creole
Honduras	Honduran	a Honduran	Spanish
Hungary	Hungarian	a Hungarian	Hungarian
Iceland	Icelandic	an Icelander	Icelandic
India	Indian	an Indian	Hindi / English
Indonesia	Indonesian	an Indonesian	Indonesian
Iran	Iranian	an Iranian	Persian
Iraq	Iraqi	an Iraqi	Arabic, Kurdish
Ireland	Irish	an Irishman an Irishwoman	Irish / English
Israel	Israeli	an Israeli	Hebrew
Italy	Italian	an Italian	Italian
Jamaica	Jamaican	a Jamaican	English
Japan	Japanese	a Japanese person	Japanese
Jordan	Jordanian	a Jordanian	Arabic
Kenya	Kenyan	a Kenyan	Swahili
Kuwait	Kuwaiti	a Kuwaiti	Arabic
Laos	Lao	a Laotian	Laotian
Latvia	Latvian	a Latvian	Latvian
Lebanon	Lebanese	a Lebanese	Arabic
Libya	Libyan	a Libyan	Arabic
Lithuania	Lithuanian	a Lithuanian	Lithuanian
Madagascar	Malagasy	a Malagasy	Malagasy / French
Malaysia	Malaysian	a Malaysian	Malay / Malaysian
Mali	Malian	a Malian	French
Malta	Maltese	a Maltese	English, Maltese
Mexico	Mexican	a Mexican	Spanish
Mongolia	Mongolian	a Mongolian	Mongolian
Morocco	Moroccan	a Moroccan	Arabic / French
Mozambique	Mozambican	a Mozambican	Portuguese
Namibia	Namibian	a Namibian	English
Nepal	Nepalese	a Nepalese	Nepali, English
Netherlands	Dutch	a Dutchman a Dutchwoman	Dutch

New Zealand	New Zealand	a New Zealander	English / Maori
Nicaragua	Nicaraguan	a Nicaraguan	Spanish
Nigeria	Nigerian	a Nigerian	English
Norway	Norwegian	a Norwegian	Norwegian
Pakistan	Pakistani	a Pakistani	Urdu, English
Panama	Panamanian	a Panamanian	Spanish
Paraguay	Paraguayan	a Paraguayan	Spanish
Peru	Peruvian	a Peruvian	Spanish
Philippines	Philippine	a Filipino	Tagalog / Filipino
Poland	Polish	a Pole	Polish
Portugal	Portuguese	a Portuguese person	Portuguese
Romania	Romanian	a Romanian	Romanian
Russia	Russian	a Russian	Russian
Saudi Arabia	Saudi	a Saudi (Arabian)	Arabic
Scotland	Scottish	a Scot	English
Senegal	Senegalese	a Senegalese person	French
Serbia	Serbian	a Serbian	Serbian
Singapore	Singaporean	a Singaporean	English, Malay, Mandarin, Tamil
Slovakia	Slovak	a Slovak	Slovak
South Africa	South African	a South African	Afrikaans, English, + 9 more
South Korea	Korean	a Korean	Korean
Spain	Spanish	a Spaniard	Spanish
Sri Lanka	Sri Lankan	a Sri Lankan	Sinhala, Tamil
Sudan	Sudanese	a Sudanese person	Arabic, English
Sweden	Swedish	a Swede	Swedish
Switzerland	Swiss	a Swiss person	German, French, Italian, Romansh
Syria	Syrian	a Syrian	Arabic
Taiwan	Taiwanese	a Taiwanese person	Chinese
Tajikistan	Tajikistani	a Tajikistani	Tajik (Persian)
Thailand	Thai	a Thai person	Thai
Tonga	Tongan	a Tongan	English, Tongan
Tunisia	Tunisian	a Tunisian	Arabic
Turkey	Turkish	a Turk	Turkish
Ukraine	Ukrainian	a Ukrainian	Ukrainian
United Arab Emirates	Emirati	an Emirati	Arabic
(The) United Kingdom	British	a Brit	English
(The) United States	American **	an American	English
Uruguay	Uruguayan	a Uruguayan	Spanish
Venezuela	Venezuelan	a Venezuelan	Spanish
Vietnam	Vietnamese	a Vietnamese	Vietnamese

		person	
Wales	Welsh	a Welshman a Welshwoman	Welsh / English
Zambia	Zambian	a Zambian	English
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwean	a Zimbabwean	16 languages

\* NOTE: Colombia is the correct spelling of the country and not "Columbia".

\*\* You will notice that people from United States have the nationality 'American'. Some people from other parts of the American continent (especially Central and South America) tend not to like the word American for people from the United States. You will find that they will call them North American.



