

7.1 quantifiers

	100%	a large amount	a small amount	0%
uncountable or plural nouns	all, any	a lot of, lots of, plenty of, most	some, hardly any	no, not any
uncountable nouns		much, a large amount of, a great deal of	a little, little	
plural nouns	both (= all of two)	many, a large number of, quite a few	several, a small number of, a few, few	
singular nouns	each, every			no, not any, neither (= none of two)

a few / a little = some or a small amount
There's still a little butter left.

few / little = not many/much or not as many/much as wanted or expected
Very few people came to the meeting.

any = It doesn't matter which/who
I like any brand of chocolate.
 spoken grammar

With *a* ____ *number of* + a plural noun, a singular verb is more correct but a plural verb is often used in spoken English.

A large number of books were destroyed in the fire. A small number were saved.

PRACTICE

7.1

A Underline the correct alternative.

What does your ring tone say about you?

Almost everyone now has a mobile phone and ¹*a great deal / a large number / the most* of us have our own ring tone. Is it only so that we can distinguish our own phone from others or is it because ²*each / a large number of / both* time our phone rings we want to be able to say, 'Listen to that. That's me!?' Maybe ³*either / both / each* reasons are true. Here is a quick guide to ⁴*some / few / a little* typical ring tones and what they say about their users.

If your ring tone is ⁵*either / both / neither* a hip hop tune or a current hit, then you are young at heart but not particularly original.

⁶*Any / All / Either* classic rock tune means you're probably over thirty but you know you're still cool.

⁷*Not much / A few / Very few* people think annoying animal noises are as funny as the phones' owners obviously do. So ⁸*no / any / neither* points for maturity there.

You download a new one every month? You must be a teenager or you have ⁹*plenty of / a large number of / hardly any* time and money.

You never change it? Either you're too lazy or you don't know how. ¹⁰*Neither / Both / Any* is an acceptable reason!

B Complete sentences 1–8 with a quantifier from the box.

quite a few	a few	very few	a little
very little	any (x2)	either	

- Everyone wanted to get home and so there were _____ questions at the end of the lecture.
- I'm afraid I've spilt _____ wine on the carpet.
- _____ of the students (four of us to be exact) have signed your petition.
- I've watched _____ basketball games in my time, probably hundreds, but I've never seen such an exciting match.
- Carla couldn't afford a taxi because she had _____ money left.
- You can press _____ 'save' or 'save as' and then give the document a name.
- Are you having _____ other problems with the photocopier?
- I like _____ music by Jade. She's my favourite singer.