

**Mr. K's
Grammar Boot Camp**

**10.
Quantifiers**

**Unit 1:
Parts of Speech**

Lesson Objectives

1. What are *quantifiers*?
2. What are common *quantifiers*?
3. What are the three patterns for *quantifiers*?
4. When do you need *of* with *quantifiers*?
5. What form of the verb do you need after a *quantifier + of*?

Quantifiers

- A quantifier is a word that answers the questions **how much** or **how many**.
- The most common quantifiers are **cardinal numbers***
 - one, two, three...thirty...thirty million...

***Ordinal** numbers are not quantifiers because they answer the question **Which one...?**

- A: How many do you want? B: Two
- A: Which one do you want? B: The second one.

- Many quantifiers are used with **both countable** and **uncountable** nouns.
- Some can **only** be used with **countable** nouns.
- Others can **only** be used with **uncountable** nouns.

countable

uncountable

100%

all

all

100%

a large number

a lot of / many

a lot of / much

a large amount

more than half

most

most

more than half

two or three

a few / several

a little

a small amount

two

both / a couple of

no / none

zero

zero

no / none

not...any

not...any

some

some

I don't know.

I don't know.

Quantifiers

- There are three basic patterns for quantifiers.

1. Quantifier + noun

- The quantifier is an **adjective**.
 - We brought *some* extra *food* in case someone got hungry.
 - In New Zealand, *most people* live on the North Island.
 - A rugby team consists of *fifteen players*.

2. Quantifier only

- The quantifier is considered either an **adjective** or a **pronoun**.
- The noun is understood but not written or spoken.
 - We have extra *food*. Would you like *some*?
 - 4.7 million *people* live in New Zealand. *Most* live on the North Island.
 - In football, there are eleven *players* on a side. In rugby, there are *fifteen*.

3. Quantifier + of + noun

- In informal situations, **of** is often **not** written or spoken with **all**, **both** or **half**.
 - We took *some of the leftover food* home in Tupperware containers.
 - *Most of the Kiwis* I have met live on the North Island.
 - There are 25 players on our rugby team. *Fifteen of us* play at one time.

Subject/Verb Agreement

- For **subject/verb agreement**, usually you ignore everything between the subject and main verb.
 - *Languages* like Vietnamese *are* called tonal languages.
 - The *cost* of the textbooks *is* paid for by the school.
- However, with quantifiers, **subject/verb agreement** is decided by the **noun after of**.
 - all of the *money* *was* spent... (uncountable, singular)
 - all of the *students* *were* sent home... (countable, plural)

Exceptions: one of... / each of...

- **One of...** and **each of...** must be followed by a **plural, countable noun**.
- However, **one** and **each** are always singular, regardless of the noun after **of**.
 - *One* of my shoes *is* missing.
 - *Each* of Bob's daughters *has* her own computer.

Quantifier + of + Noun

Limited* vs. Unlimited Group

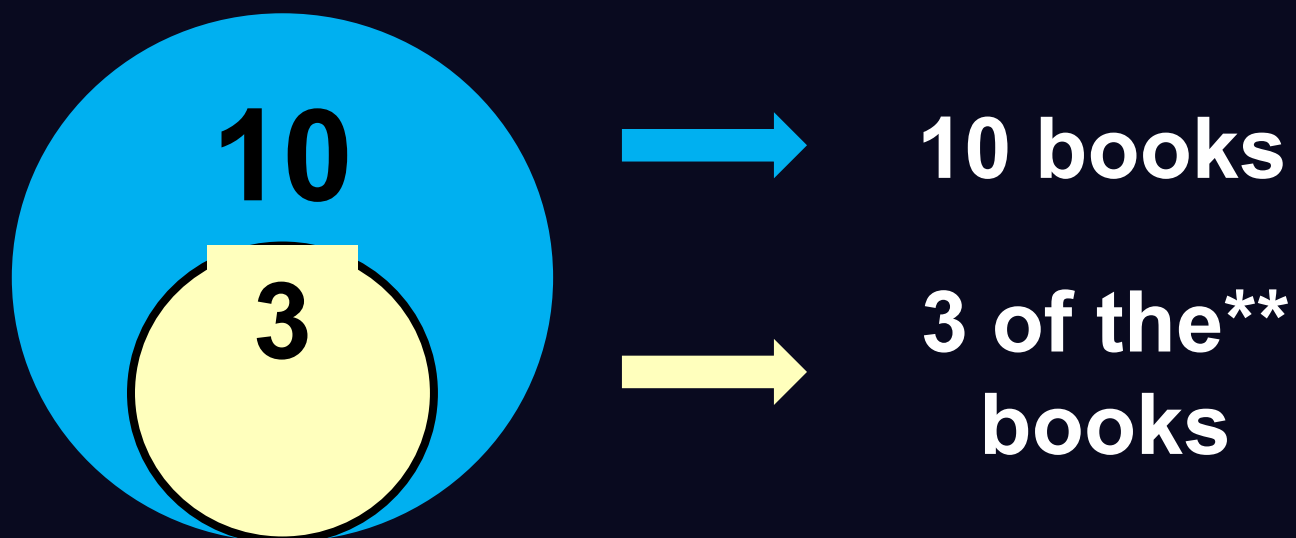
{1, 2, 3, 4 ... 500 ... } → ~~of~~

{1, 2, 3, 4 ... 500,000} → of

*A group is often limited by a prepositional phrase or adjective clause.

- some of the money *on the ground*
- most of the people *that we met*

Small Part of a Larger Group



When you use **of, you **must** have a word between **of** and the **noun**.

- some of *the money*
- most of *my friends*
- several of *those books*
- ✗ **all of students**

Common Errors

Overusing Quantifiers

- Students often add quantifiers to sentences when they aren't necessary.
- Only add quantifiers when it is important to explain *how much* or *how many*.

✘ **All** students are expected to arrive at school by 8:00.

✔ *All* seniors must attend a meeting after school today. It's mandatory.

✘ **Some** coffee and donuts will be served before the meeting.

✔ We ordered *four* donuts and *two* cups of coffee.

Overusing Some

- The quantifier that students use most is *some*.
- However, *some* is very weak. It doesn't give you any important information.
- Very often, a more specific quantifier would be much better...
- ...or no quantifier is needed at all.

✘ I made **some** careless mistakes on the test.

✔ I made *several* careless mistakes on the test.

✘ In summer, it is important that you drink **some** water to stay hydrated.

✔ In summer, it is important that you drink (a lot of) water to stay hydrated.