

## Predeterminers – such – what – rather – quite

### Introduction

1) Predeterminers are words placed before determiners in a sentence, i.e. they modify the determiner.

***What** a great day!*

2) Predeterminers are usually placed before an *indefinite article* + *adjective* + *noun* to express an opinion about the noun they modify.

Predeterminers can be classified into the following categories:

a) multipliers (*twice, three times*) are used to express more than the specified amount.

*My brothers make **twice** my annual salary.*

*I try to call my parents at least **three times** a week.*

b) fractions (*half, one-eighth*) are used to express a fraction of an amount.

*The bus will arrive in **half** an hour. We've got plenty of time.*

*I ate **one-third** of the pizza we cooked last night.*

c) intensifiers (*such, what, quite, rather*) are used to express surprise, disappointment, pleasure, or other emotions.

*Such* and *what* are used to express surprise or other emotions.

*Alice is **such** a kind person!*

***What** a fantastic meal it is!*

*Quite* and *rather* refer to the degree of a particular quality as expressed by the adjective that modifies the noun. They can express disappointment, pleasure, or other emotions depending on the adjective.

Note that in British English, *rather* is used as a predeterminer, while in American English it is only used as an adverb.

*Actually, it was **quite** a nice meal. I am surprised.*

*He's always been **rather** a difficult child. (BrE)*

d) other pre-determiners such as *all*, *both* do not fall into the other groups. They are used to express the entire amount.

*Jake broke **both** his legs when hiking.*

*How did you manage to read **all** these books in one week?*

### Short Story Dialogue

– *Let me tell you about our trip to Germany. You know that I'm **quite** good at German but I felt **rather** hopeless at first – I couldn't understand anyone! Certainly it did not help that we were in Bavaria.*

– *Yeah, I've heard stories about the accent there! **What** a challenge!*

– *And I would ask someone **three times** before understanding what they said. I felt **quite** stupid but it got better with time. **All** the people were very kind to us. In the end, we even managed to make friends with Adam and Martha from there. They are **such** a nice couple!*

**Independent Practice - Predeterminers – such – what – rather – quite**

**1) Underline the correct predeterminer in the following sentences.**

- a. When I was a kid, I would brush my teeth *one time/once* a day.
- b. *Both/Half* my brothers live in Europe.
- c. *What/Once* a beautiful Sunday morning!
- d. I make *all/twice* Tom's salary.
- e. I never want to see these *two/both* again.

**2) Restore the word order in the following sentences.**

a. (It/such/to be/yesterday/a roller coaster of emotions)!	..... .....
b. (Look/these/at/balloons/all)!	..... .....
c. (Add/of sugar/one-third/to the mix/a cup).	..... .....
d. (I/to see/twice/to try/a year/my dentist).	..... .....
e. (It/to be/him/in a state like this/sad/rather/to see).	..... .....

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**Independent Practice: Answers - Pre-determiners – such – what – rather – quite**

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- a. When I was a kid, I would brush my teeth *one time/once* a day.
- b. *Both/Half* my brothers live in Europe.
- c. *What/Once* a beautiful Sunday morning!
- d. I make *all/twice* Tom's salary.
- e. I never want to see these *two/both* again.

**2) Restore the word order in the following sentences.**

- a. It was such a roller coaster of emotions yesterday!
- b. Look at all these balloons!
- c. Add one-third a cup of sugar to the mix.
- d. I try to see my dentist twice a year.
- e. It is rather sad to see him in a state like this.