

## Quantifiers – a lot of – most

### Introduction

1) Quantifiers are adjectives and adjectival phrases that give approximate or specific answers to the questions 'How much?' and 'How many?'.

*Sorry, but there isn't **much** left for you to do here.*

2) To answer the questions 'How much?' and 'How many?' certain quantifiers can be used with countable nouns (chairs, apples), while others can be used with uncountable nouns (tea, money). We use *much* with uncountable nouns and *many* with countable nouns. Note that *much* and *many* are mainly used in interrogative and negative sentences.

***How many cousins** do you have? (countable)*

***How much money** did you spend? (uncountable)*

Note that in spoken English and informal writing when we want to indicate a large quantity of something we tend to use *a lot*, *a lot of*, *lots of*.

*A lot* means very often or very much. It is used as an adverb. It often comes at the end of a sentence and never before a noun.

*My brother plays football **a lot**.*

*She's **a lot** happier after quitting her job.*

*A lot of* is more formal than *lots of*. They both mean a large amount or number of people or things and they can be used with plural countable nouns and with singular uncountable nouns for affirmatives, negatives, and questions.

*That's **a lot of money**.*

*There are **a lot of great students** here.*

*We've got **lots of things** to do today.*

We use the quantifier *most* to talk about quantities, amounts and degree. We can use it with a noun (as a determiner) or without a noun (as a pronoun). We can also use it with adjectives and adverbs to form the superlative.

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We use *most* with nouns in the meaning the majority of. If there is no article, demonstrative or possessive pronoun, we use *most* right before the noun.

***Most tap water is drinkable.***

When we are talking about the majority of a specific set of something, we use *most of the* + noun.

***Most cakes are sweet. (cakes in general)***

***The party was amazing. Kate made **most of the cakes** herself. (a specific set of cakes at the party)***

We can leave out the noun with *most* when the noun is obvious from the context.

***Students can eat in the cafeteria but **most** bring food from home. (=most students)***

### Short Story Dialogue

– I know that **most teenagers** like partying and going out with their friends but **most of my friends** aren't like that. We go to the theatres and museums a lot.

– That's so interesting! What do you like **the most** about contemporary museums?

– Well, **most people think that museums are really boring but it's not true nowadays. A lot of museums** are interactive. They are entertaining, engaging, and educational. And people of all ages have **lots of fun** in there!

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## Independent Practice - Quantifiers – a lot of – most

### 1) Fill in the gaps with *a lot*, *a lot of*, *most*.

- a. My dad spends ..... money on his hobbies.
- b. .... of the children at this school have tablets.
- c. Generally speaking, ..... pizzas contain meat.
- d. We had to write ..... essays this semester.
- e. I don't like strawberries .....
- f. .... of the time I spend reading at home.
- g. Peter looks ..... younger than his brother.
- h. Don't worry, we have ..... time to finish it!
- i. There are .....smokers in their family.
- j. .... taxis pass down this street, so you'll be able to get home safely.

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## Independent Practice: Answers - Quantifiers – a lot of – most

### 1) Fill in the gaps with *a lot*, *a lot of*, *most*.

- a. My dad spends **a lot of** money on his hobbies.
- b. **Most** of the children at this school have tablets.
- c. Generally speaking, **most** pizzas contain meat.
- d. We had to write **a lot of** essays this semester.
- e. I don't like strawberries **a lot**.
- f. **Most** of the time I spend reading at home.
- g. Peter looks **a lot** younger than his brother.
- h. Don't worry, we have **a lot of** time to finish it!
- i. There are **a lot of** smokers in their family.
- j. **A lot of** taxis pass down this street, so you'll be able to get home safely.