

2 **subject, object or complement**

All can be the subject, object or complement of a sentence.

*All that matters is to be happy. I gave her **all** she asked for. That's **all**.*

For more detailed rules, see 34.

3 **all with nouns and pronouns**

All can modify a noun or pronoun. Two positions are possible: with the noun or pronoun:

*All (of) **the people** were singing. I haven't read **all of it**. Give my love to **them all**.*

with the verb:

*The people **were all singing**.*

For more detailed rules, see 35.

4 **all with adjectives, adverbs etc**

All can be used to emphasise some adjectives, adverbs, prepositions and conjunctions.

*You're **all wet**. I was **all alone**. I looked **all round**, but I couldn't see anything. Tell me **all about** your holiday. It's **all because** of you.*

For more examples, see a good dictionary.

All, both and half follow similar grammar rules. For both, see 109-110; for half, see 235. For all but, see 116.1.

34 **all (2): subject, object or complement; all, everybody and everything**

1 **all and everybody**

We do not normally use all to mean 'everybody'. Compare:

*All the people stood up. Everybody stood up. (NOT ~~All stood up.~~)*

2 **all and everything**

All can mean 'everything', but usually only in the structure all + relative clause (all that ...). Compare:

- *All (that) I have is yours. Everything is yours. (NOT ~~All is yours.~~)*
- *She lost all she owned. She lost everything. (NOT ~~She lost all.~~)*

This structure often has a rather negative meaning, expressing ideas like 'nothing more' or 'the only thing(s)'.

*This is all I've got. All I want is a place to sit down. All that happened was that he went to sleep.*

Note also That's all (= 'It's finished'; 'There's no more').

C **everyone/everybody and everything (pronouns)**

everyone/everybody + singular verb is normally preferred to all (the) people + plural verb, i.e. we say *Everyone is ready* instead of *All the people are ready*. There is no difference between everyone and everybody.

everything is similarly preferred to all (the) things, i.e. we say *Everything has been wasted* instead of *All the things have been wasted*.

The expressions all (the) people, all (the) things are possible when followed by a phrase or clause:

*All the people in the room clapped. I got all the things you asked for.*

Otherwise they are rarely used.

(For pronouns and possessive adjectives with everyone/everybody, see 51 C, 69.)

## 35 all (3): all (of) with nouns and pronouns

2

### 1 all and all of

All (of) can modify nouns and pronouns.

Before a noun with a determiner (for example *the, my, this*), *all* and *all of* are both possible. American English usually has *all of*.

*She's eaten **all (of) the cake**. All (of) my friends like riding.*

Before a noun with no determiner, we do not normally use *of*.

*All children can be difficult.* (NOT *All of children...*)

For more about *of* in noun phrases, see 157.4.

### 2 all of + personal pronoun

With personal pronouns, we use *all of + object form*.

*All of us/you/them* can be the subject or object of a clause.

*All of us can come tomorrow.* (NOT *All we...*)

*She's invited **all of you**. Mary sent **all of them** her love.*

### 3 pronoun + all

We can put *all* after pronouns used as objects.

*She's invited **you all**.*

*Mary sent her love to **them all**.*

*I've made **us all** something to eat.*

This does not happen with complement pronouns or in short answers.

*Is that **all of them**?* (NOT *Is that ~~them all~~?*)

*'Who did you invite?' 'All of them.'* (NOT *'Them all.'*)

*All* can follow a subject pronoun (e.g. *They all went home*), but in this case it belongs grammatically with the verb (see 36) and may be separated from the pronoun (e.g. *They have all gone home*).

For the American plural pronoun *you all*, see 424.2.

### 4 types of noun

*All* is used mostly before uncountable and plural nouns.

*all the water all my friends*

However, *all* can be used before some singular countable nouns referring to things that can naturally be divided into parts.

*all that week all my family all the way*

With other singular countable nouns, it is more natural to use *whole* (e.g. *the whole story*). For details, see 38.

### 2 all with determiners

We can use *all*, but not normally *every*, with certain determiners (articles, possessives or demonstratives). Compare:

- *all* + determiner + plural

*All the lights were out.*

*I've written to **all my friends**.*

- *every* + singular

*Every light was out.* (NOT *The every light...*)

*I've written to **every friend I have**.*

(NOT *every my friend / my every friend*.)

### 3 all with uncountables

We can use *all*, but not *every*, with uncountable nouns.

*I like **all music**.* (NOT *...every music*.)

### 4 all = 'every part of'

We can use *all* with place names and some singular countable nouns to mean 'every part of', 'the whole of'.

*All London was talking about her affairs.*

*I've been round **all the village** looking for the cat.*

Note the difference between *all day/week* etc and *every day/week* etc.

*She was here **all day**.* (= from morning to night)

*She was here **every day**.* (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, ...)

### 6 both and all

We often leave out *the* after *both*.

*Both (the) children are good at maths.*

And we often leave out *the* between *all* and a number.

*All (the) three brothers were arrested.*

We usually leave out *the* after *all* in *all day, all night, all week, all year, all winter and all summer*.

*We've been waiting to hear from you **all week**.*

*I haven't seen her **all day**.*