

Quantifiers with 'Of': Specific Groups & Pronouns

INTERMEDIATE

Focus: Some of / Most of / None of, Using 'of' with the/this/my/those, Pronouns (us/you/them), All vs. Half

In English, the way we use quantifiers (words like *some*, *most*, *all*, *none*) changes depending on whether we are talking about people/things in **general** or a **specific** group.

1. Specific Groups (Quantifier + OF + Determiner)

When we talk about a specific group of things or people (defined by words like **the**, **these**, **those**, **my**, **your**), we generally use the structure: **Quantifier + OF + Determiner + Noun**.

- **General (No 'of')**: *Most people* like music. (People in the world).
- **Specific (With 'of')**: *Most **of the** people* in this room are happy. (Specific group).

Quantifier	Structure	Example
Some	some + of + the/my/these	<i>I have read some of the books.</i>
Most	most + of + the/my/these	<i>Most of my friends live here.</i>
None	none + of + the/my/these	<i>None of those cars are cheap.</i>
Many/Much	many/much + of + the/my/these	<i>She didn't spend much of her money.</i>

*Note: We cannot say "None the students". We must say "**None of the** students".*

2. Using Object Pronouns (us / you / them / it)

When using a quantifier with a pronoun, you **must** use **of**. You must also use the **object pronoun** (*us*, *you*, *them*, *it*), not the subject pronoun (*we*, *you*, *they*).

- *All of **them** came to the party.* (NOT: All of they / All them)
- *Some of **us** are tired.*
- *Have you seen any of **it**?*

3. Special Rules: 'All' and 'Half'

With the words **all** and **half**, the word **of** is often optional when followed by a noun, but mandatory with pronouns.

- **With Nouns (Optional 'of')**:
 - *All **of the** students = All **the** students.*
 - *Half **of the** time = Half **the** time.*
- **With Pronouns (Mandatory 'of')**:
 - *All **of us**.* (NOT: All us).
 - *Half **of it**.* (NOT: Half it).

4. Independent Use

You can use these quantifiers alone if the noun has already been mentioned or is understood from context.

- *A: Are those apples good?*
- *B: Yes, but I only ate **some**.* (Referring to 'some of the apples').

Practice

Exercise 1: Fill in the Blanks

Instruction: Complete the sentences using the words in brackets. You must determine if you need to add **of**.

- *Example:* _____ (most / the students) passed. -> **Most of the students**
- *Example:* _____ (all / day) was fun. -> **All (of) the day**

1. _____ (some / my friends) are coming to visit me this weekend.
2. Unfortunately, _____ (none / the information) you sent was correct.
3. _____ (you / eat / all) the cake, or is there some left?
4. She wasn't hungry, so she didn't eat _____ (any / her lunch).
5. _____ (most / us) agree that the movie was fantastic.
6. _____ (half / the cars) in the parking lot belong to the staff.
7. Why _____ (none / them) want to join the team?
8. We have finished the project, but _____ (some / it) still needs to be reviewed.
9. _____ (you / know / many) the people at the conference?
10. _____ (all / those houses) were built in the 19th century.
11. I invited ten people, but _____ (none / them / come) to the dinner.
12. _____ (most / birds) fly south for the winter. (*General fact*)
13. Do _____ (any / you) have a charger I can borrow?
14. He spent _____ (half / his life) living in Japan.
15. We looked for the keys everywhere, but we couldn't find _____ (any / them).

Answer Key

1. Some of my friends
2. none of the information
3. Did you eat all (of) / Did you eat all
4. any of her lunch
5. Most of us
6. Half of the cars / Half the cars
7. do none of them
8. some of it
9. Do you know many of
10. All of those houses / All those houses
11. none of them came
12. Most birds (*General - no 'of'*)
13. any of you
14. half of his life / half his life
15. any of them