

Determiners (every & no)

What are every and no?

Every and *no* are determiners. We use these words before nouns in order to add meaning. Here are some other determiners: *any*, *both*, *many*, *most*, and *some*. *Every* and *no* refer to the number of items or people in a group. *Every* refers to all the items or people, and *no* refers to none. For example:

I love *every* movie Brad Pitt has ever made. He's my favorite actor.
Everyone I know has more money than me!
There was *no* time to do the dishes today.
I had *nothing* to do with that disastrous project, so don't blame me.

What is the sentence structure?

Both determiners appear before the nouns that they modify. For example:

Why is *every* train in the morning so late? I'm going to get into trouble at work!
Alan eats lunch in a park where *no* people go. It's very quiet there.

In addition, *every* and *no* are often linked with the following words:

every/no + *body*: *Everybody* eats rice in Japan, or so I'm told.
every/no + *one*: *No one* in my family graduated from university.
every/no + *thing*: As a child, I got *everything* that I wanted.
every/no + *where*: Tim usually goes *nowhere* for vacation. He just sits at home.

How are every and no used?

Every is used when talking about all people, places, or things. It's almost always used with singular nouns. For example:

I sent my resume to every company that you recommended.
 I sent my resume to every companies that you recommended.

No is used when talking about an absence of all people, places, or things. The verb in the sentence must be positive. For example:

There are no cheap flights to Jamaica at this time of year.
 There aren't no cheap flights to Jamaica at this time of year.

Here are question sentences with the determiners:

Why have the beaches been so crowded every Sunday this year?

What would you do if you had no money and were homeless?

Is there any additional information on every and no?

Yes. *Every* must be used with a countable noun. If there isn't a counter (a glass of... -or- a box of...), then *every* may not be used. On the other hand, *no* may be used with both singular and plural countable nouns, as well as with uncountable nouns. For example:

(countable noun) Every book for my Science class is really expensive.

(singular countable noun) No *seat* on the train was open, so I had to stand.

(plural countable noun) The theater had no *tickets* for the midnight show.

(uncountable noun) If there were no *coffee* in the morning, I would go crazy.

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