

Each, every

Introduction



This train stops at **every** station on the route.

Definition

Each and **every** are quantifiers which have similar meanings but are not always used in the same way.

Construction

	Each	Every
+ singular noun	Each book is different.	Every book is different.
+ plural noun	✗	✗
without a noun	Each is different.	✗
with 'one'	Each one is different.	Every one is different.
with 'of'	Each of them is different.	✗
with 'one' and 'of'	✗	Every one of them is different.

Each and **every** take a singular verb, even if there is more than one noun:

Every man and woman has an opportunity to progress in our company.

With '**each** of', we can use a singular or a plural verb but the singular is better in formal written English:

Each of the books is/are different.

Uses

Use		Examples
Each	To talk about a group of things or people when we consider them separately - one at a time	We greeted each visitor as they arrived.
	To refer to two things or people	In last night's rugby match, each team played well.
	To talk about prices	These apples are 40p each .
	To talk about how things are divided between members of a group	There are six chocolates and three people so they can have two each .
	' each other'	He's looking at her and she's looking at him. = They're looking at each other. [see Reflexive and reciprocal pronouns]
Every	To talk about a group of things or people when we consider them as a whole. The meaning is similar to all	Every visitor to our company receives a warm welcome.
	To talk about frequency	The buses leave every fifteen minutes. She visits her parents every Christmas.

Note that for smaller numbers, **each** is more common. **Every** is more common for bigger numbers and has a similar meaning to **all**:

Each member of my team works hard.

Every employee in this company works hard.

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