

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

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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