

Determiners - Part II

Two group B determiners can be put together if the combination makes sense.

We meet every few days.

I have seen all seven films directed by him.

When a group B determiner is directly used before a noun, we do not use of.

Have you got any rice? (NOT Have you got any of rice?)

Few children came. (NOT Few of children came.)

Most people like babies. (NOT Most of people like babies)

But if we have to put a group B determiner before a noun which has a group A determiner (articles, possessives, demonstratives) we use of.

Compare:

Few children (Group B determiner + noun)

Few of the children (Group B determiner + of + group A determiner + noun)

Each boy

Each of the boys

Neither color

Neither of the colors

Most shops

Most of the shops

In a few cases of can be used directly before a noun even if there is no group A determiner.

This, for example, happens with proper nouns such as place names.

Most of Wales was under water.

The determiners no and every cannot be used before of. Instead we use none and every one.

Compare:

No child

Determiners - Part II

None of the children

Every boy

Every one of the boys

We can use all, both and half without of before a noun with a group A determiner.

All my friends OR All of my friends

Both my parents OR Both of my parents

Half his income OR Half of his income

Of cannot be left out before a pronoun.

All of us (NOT All us)

The determiners each, every, either and neither are followed by singular nouns. But when these determiners are followed by of, the nouns should be plural in number.

Compare:

Each boy

Each of the boys (NOT Each of the boy)

Neither girl

Neither of the girls

Every girl

Every one of the girls