



Academic Writing Podcast 6 – Key Quantifying Expressions

Sample Text

The United Nations Development Program report for 2011 shows that **as a whole**, adult literacy rates are improving worldwide. **No fewer than** 45 nations have literacy rates above 99%, and the rates **exceed** 75% in 135 countries. **A significant number** of the world's most populous countries, including China, the United States, Indonesia, Brazil, Russia, and Japan, have literacy rates above 90%. However, a **considerable number** of northern African nations have literacy rates lower than 50%, including Mali's rate of just 26%. **The bulk of amount** of the global improvement in literacy rates is due to the rise of public education for girls and women, as **more and more** countries have realized the societal importance of educated women.

Glossary

1) a large / great amount of

a quantity; used especially with uncountable nouns

- The server is designed to store **huge amounts of** data.
- Our study focuses on intensity and **amount of** physical activity among teenagers in rural areas.

2) a large number of (a substantial, considerable, significant, total, fair, reasonable, acceptable, surprising number of)

a quantity of people or things

- The number of individuals to be used for estimating life expectancy for certain areas can be very **small**.
- In our study the maximum **acceptable number of** active users is 120.
- The task involves a **large number of** cases and has many different input parameters.

3) no fewer than

- We sent questionnaires to more than 2500 participants in total. And **no fewer than** 2300 have answered.
- **No fewer than** 5 unannounced “pull-up” quizzes will be given throughout the semester.
- The Collection contains **no fewer than** 166 species, 38 of which are new to science.

4) the bulk of

the main part of something; most of something



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- The **bulk** of the population lives in cities.
- The article covers **the bulk of** the material published by the same author in his recent book.
- **The bulk of** the review discusses our current understanding of the methods being used.

5) as a whole

as one thing or piece and not as separate parts

- The survey shows that, **as a whole**, the population is becoming more aware of the importance of recycling.
- The effect will be beneficial for our city and for the country **as a whole**.
- The global market had a dramatic effect on the labour market within Britain, but also to industry **as a whole**.

6) to exceed

to be higher than

- Results **exceeding** 5 cm were eliminated from the survey.
- Feedback may be extended for one further period not **exceeding** six months
- The variables in the study did not **exceed** 100.
- Sales growth in UK was 17%, far *exceeding* that of Core UK Business.

7) fewer and fewer / less and less / more and more

- The policy of strict regulations was **less and less** affordable for the government in the long run.
- County courts now deal with **more and more** serious cases.

Tasks

1. What adjectives you can use with **number of**? **A large number of**...
2. What phrase can you use when describing different parts, as one thing or piece? You can process your research data as a number of samples or, if you take them all together, you will treat them...
3. What is a synonymous phrase for **the main part of something**
4. If your research shows that men had 6,5 hours per week for their hobbies in 2009, 6,2 hours in 2010 and and 5,9 hours in 2011. In general, you can say that men have....
5. What is the difference between amount of and a number of?¹

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