

# Another vs other vs others

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Another adds one more of the same kind, other describes different things, and others stands alone as a pronoun.

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## The rule

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### Another + singular noun

- Another means one more of the same kind: "Would you like another cup of tea?"
- Another also means a different one: "This pen is broken; give me another."
- The noun after another is always singular: another day, another question, another city.
- Another cannot take a plural noun: "another people" is wrong.

### Other + plural or uncountable noun

- Other describes different things: "Other people arrived later."
- Other works with uncountable nouns: "Do you have other information?"
- Other does not take -s when a noun follows: other people, other ideas.
- With a singular countable noun, use another or the other, not other alone: "the other day", not "other day".

### The other: the second or the remaining one

- The other means the second of two: "One shoe is here; where is the other shoe?"
- The other can mean the remaining one in a small set: "I will take this one; you take the other."
- The other + plural noun means the rest: "The other students went home."
- Use the other when the listener knows which one you mean.

### Others and the others: pronouns

- Others replaces a plural noun: "Some people agree; others disagree."
- The others means the rest of a known group: "Two of us stayed; the others left."
- Never write others + noun: "others people" is wrong.
- The singular pronoun is another one or the other one, not other.

### Every other and other fixed patterns

- Every other day means every second day: "The bus runs every other day."
- The other day means a few days ago: "I saw her the other day."
- On the other hand introduces a contrast: "It is expensive; on the other hand, it lasts longer."
- Each other means one another, and it is fixed: "They help each other."

## Questions

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Write your answer on the line under each question. Check your work with the answer key on the last page.

1. Would you like \_\_\_ cup of tea?

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2. \_\_\_ students joined the class late.

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3. Some people walk; \_\_\_ take the bus.

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4. This shoe fits, but where is \_\_\_ shoe?

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5. Two of us stayed; \_\_\_ left early.

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6. The bus comes every \_\_\_ day.

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7. I need \_\_\_ ten minutes to finish.

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8. Do you have \_\_\_ information about the course?

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9. She has \_\_\_ books at home.

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10. I saw him \_\_\_ other day at the market.

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11. It is expensive; on the other \_\_\_ it lasts for years.

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12. They helped \_\_\_ other with the bags.

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**13.** I do not like this shirt. Show me \_\_\_ one, please.

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**14.** This pen is broken. Where is \_\_\_ pen?

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**15.** Some of the cakes are sweet; \_\_\_ are salty.

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**16.** We need \_\_\_ day to decide.

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**17.** The \_\_\_ people in the queue were patient.

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**18.** One twin is tall; \_\_\_ is short.

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**19.** He works every \_\_\_ week.

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**20.** I have finished this report; I have \_\_\_ reports to write.

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## Answer key

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1. **another** — Another takes the singular noun cup.
2. **Other** — Other comes before a plural noun with no -s.
3. **others** — Others stands alone as a plural pronoun.
4. **the other** — The other is the second of a pair of shoes.
5. **the others** — The others means the rest of a known group.
6. **other** — Every other day means every second day.
7. **another** — Another takes the singular noun ten minutes as a single block of time.
8. **other** — Information is uncountable, so other is the correct word.
9. **other** — Other + plural noun books; others never comes before a noun.
10. **the** — The fixed phrase is the other day, meaning recently.
11. **hand** — On the other hand is the fixed contrast phrase.
12. **each** — Each other is the fixed reciprocal pattern.
13. **another** — Another one means a different single shirt.
14. **the other** — The other pen is the second of the pair.
15. **others** — Others replaces the plural noun cakes in the second clause.
16. **another** — A singular noun takes another; other cannot stand before a singular noun.
17. **other** — The other + plural noun people describes the rest of the queue.
18. **the other** — The other is the second of the two twins.
19. **other** — Every other week means every second week.
20. **other** — Other + plural noun reports; others cannot take a noun.