

Each vs every: one by one or all together

CEFR A2-B1 • 20 questions • A4 / US Letter

Each sees the members of a group one by one. Every sees the whole group together. Both take a singular noun and a singular verb.

The rule

The shared grammar

- Both are followed by a singular noun: each student, every student.
- Both take a singular verb: "Each student has a book."
- Do not use a plural noun directly: "every students" is wrong.
- An informal plural pronoun can refer back: "Everyone has their ticket."

Each: one by one

- Each separates the members: "Each child chose a different book."
- Each can refer to two things: "Each hand has five fingers."
- Each of takes a plural noun and a singular verb: "Each of the rooms has a window."
- Each can come after the subject: "The students each received a certificate."

Every: all together

- Every collects the whole group into one statement: "Every seat was taken."
- Every usually needs three or more items; each works with two.
- Every is common with time expressions: every day, every week, every year.
- Every can mean all possible: "She knows every answer."

Adverbs and compounds

- Each can stand alone as a pronoun: "I bought four cakes and each was delicious."
- Every cannot stand alone; use every one or everyone: "Every one was delicious."
- Everybody and everyone mean all the people: "Everyone was ready."
- Everywhere, always and everything follow the same all-inclusive idea.

Position and common phrases

- Each goes before a noun, after a plural subject or before of: each room, they each paid, each of us.
- Every goes before a noun only: every room.
- Every can take a possessive: every student's name.
- Every other means alternating: "We meet every other Friday."

Questions

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

1. ___ student has a locker.

2. ___ seat was taken.

3. Each of the rooms ___ a window.

4. ___ of the children was ready.

5. She calls her mother ___ day.

6. The children ___ chose a different game.

7. I bought four cakes and ___ was delicious.

8. ___ hand has five fingers.

9. ___ in the exam was easy.

10. We meet ___ other Friday.

11. The tickets cost ten euros ___.

12. She knows ___ answer.

13. The teacher gave ___ child a book.

14. I see her ___ week.

15. Each of the students ___ a dictionary.

16. ___ one of the cakes was delicious.

17. The rooms were clean, and ___ was empty.

18. Every ___ name was on the list.

19. We go to the market ___ Saturday.

20. ___ of the two roads leads to the beach.

Answer key

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1. **Each** — Each takes a singular noun and a singular verb.
2. **Every** — Every takes a singular noun and a singular verb.
3. **has** — Each of takes a plural noun but keeps the singular verb has.
4. **Each** — Each of takes a plural noun and a singular verb; every needs one before of.
5. **every** — Every day is the fixed time phrase with a singular noun.
6. **each** — Each can follow a plural subject to show the members one by one.
7. **each** — Each can stand alone as a pronoun; every cannot.
8. **Each** — Each works with a pair, and it takes a singular noun and verb.
9. **Every question** — Every takes a singular noun, so every question is correct.
10. **every** — Every other is the fixed phrase for alternating times.
11. **each** — Each stands alone to give the price per item.
12. **every** — Every takes a singular noun and means all possible answers.
13. **each** — Each takes a singular noun and looks at the children one by one.
14. **every** — Every week is the fixed time phrase.
15. **has** — Each of keeps the singular verb has.
16. **Every** — Every one works as the pronoun form of every before of.
17. **each** — Each stands alone as a pronoun for the members of the group.
18. **student's** — Every takes a singular noun, and the possessive adds the apostrophe before s.
19. **every** — Every Saturday is the fixed time phrase with a singular noun.
20. **Each** — Each of the two works with a pair; every of is not grammatical.