

“all”, “whole” and “entire” are quantifiers. This means they indicate aspects of quantity.

Their usage depends on the type of noun they describe, i.e. singular or plural, countable or uncountable.

## ALL

**“All (of the)” can generally be used with all types of noun, e.g.**

Singular countable nouns

*The lessor has leased all of the building.*

*I waited all morning for a call from London.*

Plural countable nouns

*They have plans to sell all or a significant portion of the assets.*

*Have they paid all the invoices from 2015 yet?*

Uncountable nouns

*Please send us all the documentation you have on the matter.*

*They have not sent us all the information we asked for.*

## WHOLE

**“Whole (of the)” can be used with singular countable nouns, e.g.:**

*The lessor has leased the whole building.*

*We’ve rented the whole of the 5th floor as we’re planning to take on more staff.*

**“Whole” cannot be used with plural countable nouns or uncountable nouns, e.g.:**

Plural countable nouns

*They have plans to sell the whole or a significant portion of the assets. □*

*Have they paid the whole of the invoices from 2015 yet? □*

*In the Contractor’s opinion the whole snags were rectified before handover of the building. □=> all the snags*

Uncountable nouns

*Please send us the whole documentation you have on the matter. □*

*They have not sent us the whole information we asked for. □*

*The Operator does not guarantee the off-take of the whole electric energy generated at the wind farm. □=> all the electric energy*

## ENTIRE

“Entire” and “whole (of the)” are synonyms and usually interchangeable.  
“Entire” is more formal.

**“Entire” can be used with singular countable nouns, e.g.:**

*The lessor has leased the entire building.*

*We’ve rented the entire 5th floor as we’re planning to take on more staff.*

**Like “whole”, “entire” cannot be used with plural countable nouns or with most uncountable nouns.**

“Entire of” is wrong, but “the entirety of (the)” is correct, although it’s wordy and over formal, so I don’t recommend it.

**If you need to use “of” or “of the”, you cannot use “entire”, e.g.:**

WRONG

*The unemployment rate for **entire Poland** was 18%. ▯*

RIGHT

*The unemployment rate for the whole of Poland was 18%.*

*The unemployment rate for all of Poland was 18%.*

WRONG

*You do not have to pay them a bonus for **entire 2015**. ▯*

RIGHT

*You do not have to pay them a bonus for the whole of 2015.*