

“Essential IELTS Language: All, Every, Whole” @ <http://www.youtube.com/ESL4free>

Describe a memorable long holiday you have had.
You should say:

- Where you went
- Who you went with
- Where you stayed

And explain what made this holiday so memorable.

In these examples someone is talking about a memorable long holiday.

- 1: I went to an island resort for a holiday with a group from my local sports club. All of us had a great time.
- 2: ... Everybody had a great time.
- 3: ... Everyone had a great time.

1, 2 & 3: In these three examples “all of us” and “everyone” or “everybody” mean the same - all the people in the group.

- 4: The hotel staff were wonderful. They did everything to make our stay enjoyable.
- 5: ... They did everything they could to make our stay enjoyable.
- 6: ... They did all they could to make our stay enjoyable.

4 & 5: “Everything” can be followed by “to”, as well as “they could to” (or, for example, “everything I can to”).

6: Although “all” has the same meaning as “everything” in these examples, you cannot say “they did all to make our stay enjoyable”.

- 7: The resort provided everything I needed for a fun holiday.
- 8: The resort I provided all I needed for a fun holiday.
- 9: The resort provided everything for a fun holiday.

7, 8 & 9: These examples have similar meanings.

7 & 8: "All" and "everything" can be followed by a pronoun, "I", for example.

9: "Everything" can be followed by a preposition, "for", but "all" cannot. "...provided all for a fun holiday" is wrong.

10: We could use the pool, gym, tennis courts and golf course at no extra charge. All the sports facilities were included in the holiday package.

11: Every sports facility was at no extra charge.

12: Everybody was able to use the sports facilities at no extra cost.

13: Everybody said they enjoyed themselves.

10: "All" is used in plural form.

11 & 12: "Every" and "everybody" are always singular (as is "everything").

13: Even though "everybody" is singular, it can be followed by "...said they enjoyed themselves", meaning "he enjoyed himself".

14: I read some very good books while I was away. I even read a whole book while sitting on the beach one day.

15: One book was so good, I read all of it in one day while sitting on the beach.

16: I spent all of my money, but it was the best holiday I have had in my whole life.

14, 15 & 16: "Whole" and "all of" mean completely or from start to finish. "All" must be followed by "of" to have the same meaning as "whole". "Whole" has an article (a) or determiner before it, but "all of" does not.

17: I went to the beach every day that I was away on holiday.

18: Sometimes I would spend all day at the beach

19: Sometimes I would spend the whole day at the beach.

20: I never felt bored all the time I was on holiday.

21: Every time I went to the beach there was something different to do.

17: "Every day" means all separate days, but not necessarily the complete days.

18 & 19: "All day" and "the whole day" mean one full or completed day.

20 & 21: "All the time" means the complete time from start to finish, whereas "every time" means each separate time.