

English Vocabulary: another / other(s) / the other(s)

1. another

The word '**another**' is simply a contraction of "an other" (meaning "one other") and is always singular. It refers to a non-specific thing or person. A following noun is optional. Examples:

- There is one person in the back of the car, and **another** (person) in the front.
- We had a class yesterday, let's do **another** (class) tomorrow.
- There are two cars in the garage and **another** (car) outside.

The word '**one**' can be used to avoid repetition.

- There is one person in the back of the car, and **another one** in the front.
- We had a class yesterday, let's do **another one** tomorrow.
- There are two cars in the garage and **another one** outside.

2. other(s)

The word '**other**' refers to non-specific plural things or people. Examples:

- John is in the living room. There are **other** people there, too.
- I love rock music, but I like **other** music genres, too.
- I teach English and I sometimes teach **other** subjects such as maths.

The word '**ones**' can be used to avoid repetition.

- The book is on the table. There are **other ones** there, too.
- My favourite burger is Big Mac, but I like **other ones**, too.

We can use the word '**others**' if the context of the noun is implicit. Examples:

- John is in the living room. There are **others** there, too.
- I love the singer Madonna, but I like **others**, too.
- The main subject that I teach is English, but I teach **others** sometimes.

Mixed example:

- There is a car in the garage and there is **another car** outside.
- There is a car in the garage and there is **another one** outside.
- There is a car in the garage and there is **another** outside.
- There is a car in the garage and there are **other cars** outside.
- There is a car in the garage and there are **other ones** outside.
- There is a car in the garage and there are **others** outside.
- There is a car in the garage and there are **two other cars** outside.
- There is a car in the garage and there are **two other ones** outside.
- There is a car in the garage and there are **two others** outside.

3. the other(s)

When we use the words "**the other**" then we refer to specific thing(s) or people. It can be used with singular or plural nouns. A following noun is optional. Examples:

Singular noun:

- I have two cars. One is here and **the other** (car) is in the workshop.
- He has two sons. One is at home and **the other** (son) is at school.

The word '**one**' can be used to avoid repetition.

- I have two cars. One is here and **the other one** is in the workshop.
- He has two sons. One is at home and **the other one** is at school.

Plural noun:

- I recognize my car, but not **the other cars**.
- I only have a hammer, so I need to buy **the other tools**.

The word '**ones**' can be used to avoid repetition.

- I recognize my car, but not **the other ones**.
- I only have one tool, so I need to buy **the other ones**.

We can use '**the others**' without a plural noun if the context of the plural noun is implicit.

- I recognize my car, but not **the others**.
- I only have one tool, so I need to buy **the others**.

Note: A synonym of "the others" is "the rest".

We can also use possessive adjectives for specific things, for example "my other ____" or "my other ____s" or "another ____ of mine". Examples:

- I have two sons; one is upstairs and **my other son** is in the garden.
- I have three sons; one is upstairs and **my other sons** are in the garden.
- I have a son who lives in London, and **another** who lives in Paris. **Another son of mine** lives in Australia.

Expressions

- **each other** = mutual benefit or interaction
Example: They love **each other**. (*He loves her and she loves him.*)
- **the other day** = recently
Example: I saw Mary **the other day** – she seemed very stressed.
- **other than** = except
Example: Everybody, **other than** John, will go to the party.
- **none other than** = a special person
Example: I served **none other than** the president yesterday!
- **one after the other** = sequentially
Example: The children entered the room **one after the other**.
- **otherwise** = an alternative result
Example: You must study every day, **otherwise** you won't pass the test.

More examples of "each other":

- We have known **each other** since we were children.
- Bob and Elizabeth fell in love with **each other** while on vacation in Florida.
- Peter and Jane are committed to **each other**.
- John and Bob are busy, they are talking with **each other**.
- The cats are fighting with **each other**.
- They are a lovely couple, and they totally depend on **each other**.

Exercise 1. Use the following to complete the sentences:

another
the other

another one
the others

other
the other one

- 1) The teacher asked Joseph "Where are _____ children?"
- 2) Johnny asked his teacher "Can I have _____ banana please?"
- 3) You carry the heavy cases and I'll carry _____! Ha, ha, ha!
- 4) Don't use your left hand to hold your knife, use _____.
- 5) My pen is empty. Can I have _____ please?
- 6) Don't cry. There are many _____ fish in the sea!

Exercise 2. Use an expression to complete the following:

- 1) The professor suggested that the students work in pairs. That way, they can work with _____ to achieve the best results.
- 2) The ants made a long line across the kitchen floor, walking _____.
- 3) Put some sunscreen on your face, _____ you will get burnt.
- 4) I went to the park _____ and I saw Robert and Samantha.

Exercise 3. Translate the following sentences to English, using the phrase 'each other':

- 1) Nossos dois gatos sempre dormem um com o outro.

- 2) É importante apoiar um ao outro no casamento.

- 3) Greg e Mary não se conhecem.

- 4) Meus filhos não se dão bem.

Online exercises:

<https://test-english.com/grammar-points/b1/another-other-others-the-other-the-others/>