

1 Words of quantity sometimes behave in a different manner. Words with quantitative meanings can be nouns (**multo**, **kelko** etc), adjectives (**multa**, **pluraj** etc), adverbs (**multe**, **sufiĉe** etc), and adverbial particles (**pli**, **tiom** etc).

Nouns of quantity

2 Nouns of quantity behave just like normal nouns. Often they are modified by a **da-expression**, which shows what the quantity consists of:

3 **Kiam mi ien veturas, mi neniam prenas kun mi multon da pakajfo.** - When I travel somewhere I never take a lot of baggage with me.

4 Grammatically the word of quantity is the main word, but when seen in the context of meaning the **da-expression** is often more important. Sometimes the noun of such a **da-expression** is treated as if it were the main word:

5 **Tiam grandega multo da vortoj fariĝus en la skribado tute nediferencigeblaj unu de alia.** - Then a large number of words would, in writing, become indistinguishable one from the other.

Grammatically **nediferencigeblaj** relates to **multo**, but has a J-ending, because in its meaning it correlates strongly with **vortoj**. In fact the sentence would become quite strange if one were to say **nediferencigebla** without the J, because the expression following, **unu de alia**, imposes the idea of several individuals or items. Compare with the following example: **Grandega multo da vortoj fariĝas tute senbezona por lernado.**

6 Instead of **multo** and **malmulto** we usually prefer the adverbial forms **multe** and **malmulte**.

Adverbs of quantity

7 Adverbs of quantity often appear in sentences as if they were nouns acting as a subject, object and so on. Basically this only concerns **multe**, **sufiĉe**, **kelke** and their variations. However the use of **kelke** is very rare nowadays:

8 **En la kelo troviĝas multe da rubaĵoj.** - The the cellar there is a lot of rubbish.

Multe (a lot of) is the subject. One can also say **multo da rubaĵoj**.

El ŝia buŝo eliris kelke da perloj kaj kelke da diamantoj. - Out of her mouth came a few pearls and a few diamonds.

The two **kelke** are subjects of **eliris**. One could say **kelko da perloj/diamantoj**, but **kelko** is practically never used. Nowadays more often than not, we use **kelkaj**: **kelkaj perloj, kelkaj diamantoj**

La riĉulo havas multe da mono. - The rich guy has a lot of money.

Multe is an object, but it can't take the N-ending because it is an adverb.

Mi havas sufiĉe da laboro. - I have enough work.

Mi havas **sufiĉe** da laboro. - I have enough work.

9 Similarly you can use adverbial particles of quantity.

10 Ĉu vi scias, **kiom** estis da mortigitoj? - Do you know how many fatalities there were?

Kiom is the subject of estis.

Prenu **tiom** da mono, **kiom** vi volas. - Take as much money as you want.

Tiom and kiom are objects.

Pri **tiom** da feliĉo mi eĉ ne sonĝis, kiam mi estis ankoraŭ la malbela anasido! - About that much happiness I never even dreamt, when I was still an ugly duckling!

Tiom is a pri-adject. (circumstantial complement)

Restas ankoraŭ **iom** da problemoj. - Some problems still remain.

Iom is the subject.

Observu **pli** da ordo! - Keep more order!

Pli is the object.

Tro da kuiristoj kaĉon difektas. - Too many cooks spoil the porridge. [In English usually "the broth" or "the soup".]

Tro is the subject.

11 When an adverb of quantity is followed by a da-expression, it may often appear that the adverb is not the main word, but that the noun after the da-expression is the main word. For the meaning, the da-expression is more important, but from the grammar angle the adverb is the main word. But when an adverb of quantity + a da-expression has a modifier then usually this description relates to the da-expression although it is not the main word: **Multe** da akvo estis verŝita sur ĝin. But if a da-expression is not present, you can relate the description only to the adverb, and consequently one must use the E-form: **Multe** estis farite.

Adjectives of quantity instead of adverbs of quantity.

12 One can often replace an adverb of quantity by an adjective of quantity. Then the noun of the da-expression becomes the main word and da disappears:

13 En la subtegmento troviĝas **multaj** malnovaj vestaĵoj. ≈ ...multe/multo da malnovaj vestaĵoj. - In the attic many old articles of clothing can be found. ≈ ...a lot of old clothes.

La riĉulo havas **multan** monon. ≈ ...multe/multo da mono. - The rich person has much money. ≈ ...a great deal of money.

14 There is however a difference of nuance. **Multaj** and **kelkaj** can be used with regard to individual, separate things, and also with regard to an indistinguishable mass of something. **Multe** and **kelke** can only be used with an indistinguishable mass. So one cannot say: **Kelke** da homoj sentas sin la plej feliĉaj, kiam ili vidas la suferojn de siaj

najbaroj. One must say Kelkaj homoj..., because we're talking about the feelings of each person taken individually.

Degree and quantity

15 Degree and quantity are quite distinct, but sometimes they look similar.

Tre and multe

16 **tre** = "to a high degree, with great intensity"

multe = "in a large amount, of long duration, often repeated"

17 With adjectives and adverbs we almost always use **tre**, but we can use **multe** when clearly dealing with quantity or frequency, but we can also use **tre** when dealing with degree or intensity:

18 Ĝi estas **tre bona**. - It is very good.

Tie troviĝas **tre grandaj domoj**. - Very big houses are to be found there.

Mi **tre ŝatas** Berlinon. = Mi intense ŝatas Berlinon. - I very much like Berlin. = I intensely like Berlin

Mi **tre amas** ŝin. = Mi intense amas ŝin. - I love her very much. = I love her intensely

19 Mi **havas multe** da mono. - I have a lot of money.

Ŝi **multe pensis** pri tio. = Ŝi longe pensis pri tio. - She thought a lot about that. = She thought about that for a long time.

Kiu **multe parolas**, ne **multe faras**. - Whoever talks a lot, does not do much.

Li **tre multe helpis** al mi. - He helped me a great deal.

Tre modifies multe. Multe modifies helpis.

20 To modify pli and tro we use multe:

21 Ĝi estis **multe pli** granda ol antaŭe. - It was a lot bigger than before.

Ĝi fariĝis **multe** tro nigra. - It became much too black.

Kiel and tiel

22 The correlatives **kiel** and **tiel** show not only manner but also degree. They are used in the same places where **tre** is used:

23 Vi estas **tiel** bela, **tiel** bona kaj **tiel** honesta, ke mi devas fari al vi donacon. - You are so beautiful, so good and so honest that I must give you a present.

One can say: **tre** bela, **tre** bona and **tre** honesta.

La nokto estis **tiel** malluma, ke ni nenion povis vidi eĉ antaŭ nia nazo. - The night was so dark that we could see nothing, even in front of our noses.

It is possible to say: **tre** malluma. (very dark)

Kiom and tiom

24 The correlatives **kiom** kaj **tiom** show quantity. They are used there where you can use **multe**:

25 Mi volas **tiom** da terpomoj, **kiom** mi povas porti. - I want as many potatoes as I can carry.

One can say: **volas** multe and **povas** porti multe.

Ŝi **tiom** laboris, ke ŝi fariĝis ĉefo de la firmao. - She worked so much that she became the boss of the company.

One can say: multe laboris.

26 Before **multe** we often prefer **tiom**, because **multe** is a word of quantity: Nun li estis ja riĉa, havante **tiom** multe da mono. Or ... havante tiel multe da mono. Or ...havante tiom da mono.

"Tiom-kiom-ism"

27 **Kiom** and **tiom** are sometimes used with degree instead of **kiel** and **tiel**, when one wants to strongly emphasize. This is all right. But some Esperantists use only **kiom** and **tiom** instead of **kiel** and **tiel** to show degree as if they were always emphasizing, for example: **Mi estas tiom forta, kiom vi**. Compare this with a sentence from the *Fundamento*: **Mi estas tiel forta, kiel vi**. This tendency, this "tiom-kiom-ism" is totally foreign to the *Fundamento* and to Zamenhof's own usage. Besides that, people who constantly use **tiom-kiom** lose the ability to use **tiom** and **kiom** for emphasis.