

Expedia (YouTube Channel), "San Francisco Vacation Travel Guide"

Introduction

1. What do you know about the city of San Francisco?
2. Would you like to visit San Francisco? Why (not)?
3. Look at the following adjectives, what could they be used to describe in the city or country where you live?

Spectacular	Elegant	Bustling	Ominous
Hip	Wide	Busy	
Fun	Charming	Exotic	Colourful
Eerie	Cramped	Peaceful	
Sweeping	Tranquil	Majestic	Ancient

Video

1. Now watch the video "San Francisco Vacation Travel Guide" and listen for the adjectives above. What are they used to describe in the video?
2. Do the following quotes from the video remind you of somewhere you have visited? Why?

"It's bursting with youthful energy..."

"...a liberal and relaxed atmosphere..."

"...a great place to...do some serious people-watching..."

"[You can] enjoy the outdoors, or just relax and recharge in some peaceful surroundings..."

"...the views alone are worth the trip..."

"some of the most beautiful views across the bay..."

Second Watch

Watch the video again and fill in the gaps.

"On the northern end of the San Francisco peninsula, the city invites you to explore hip neighbourhoods, elegant buildings, beautiful parks and gardens, and enjoy a liberal, relaxed atmosphere. And there's _____ of things to see."

"Union Square, in the heart of downtown, is San Francisco's finest shopping region. The neighbourhood is famous for wide streets, clanging cable cars and _____ amazing shopping. And don't forget about the Square itself, which is a great place to sit back, relax and do _____ serious people-watching. "

"Just a few minutes north, San Francisco's Chinatown is 8 blocks of bustling activity with storefronts and alleyways selling _____ of strange and exotic goods. **One of the** _____ **Chinese communities** in the US, San Francisco's Chinatown is filled with exotic sights and sounds and a _____ of eastern mystique. "

"_____ **than** a mile to the east, the Embarcadero is a busy waterfront roadway that runs right around the port area, with **some of San Francisco's** _____ **landmarks**, including Market Street, the Bay Bridge and the San Francisco Ferry Building. Fisherman's Wharf is at the northern end of the Embarcadero and has **a great** _____ of shops, bars and restaurants, and is right on the bay. Here you can grab a relaxed meal and a cool drink and be entertained by colourful street performers, or just enjoy the views along the waterfront. "

"A short stroll away is Pier 39 which has **some of the** _____ **views** of San Francisco Bay, and a resident sea lion community that has been basking in the sun at the Pier for _____ **than 20** years. "

"The island fortress of Alcatraz sits ominously in the bay and is now a popular attraction, with tours departing from Fisherman's Wharf _____ times a day. Up until 1963, The Rock was home to America's hardest prisoners but where there was once only concrete, steel and barbed wire, there are now gardens and wildflowers. If you listen carefully, the eerie passages and cramped cells still echo with footsteps from the past."

"Not far from downtown is the Haight-Ashbury district where Victorian-styled buildings echo with memories of the hippy days of the 60s. There are still _____ pockets of counterculture where the Summer of Love lives on, and cafés, smoke shops and music stores still sell peace and love."

"At _____ **than** a thousand acres, Golden Gate Park stretches almost halfway across the peninsula and contains the Conservatory of Flowers and the tranquil Japanese Tea Garden. The park is the perfect place to enjoy the outdoors, or just relax and recharge in _____ peaceful surroundings."

"The Golden Gate Bridge sits majestically over the mouth of the bay, and invites _____ of visitors to the city each year. Almost 2 miles long and 750 feet high, the Golden Gate Bridge connects San Francisco to the nearby Marin Headlands. The pedestrian walkway spanning the length of the bridge is a superb way to see sweeping views across the bay and out over the Pacific Ocean."

"Just north of San Francisco in Marin County, the ancient redwoods of Muir Woods National Monument tower up to 260 feet high with _____ dating back almost 800 years. Local rangers can provide guided tours along pathways that loop through the forest, or visitors can enjoy the hush sounds of nature and explore _____ **of** America's natural treasures at their own pace."

"On the eastern side of Marin County is the charming bay side hamlet of Sausalito. In its early days it was a small artist colony, but now it's a relaxed bay side community filled with cafés and art galleries. A short stroll down _____ street will bring you to _____ **of** the most beautiful views across the bay. And over there, in the distance, beckoning like a siren's song is dazzling San Francisco - tempting you back for another taste. A temptation you'll find hard to resist."

Grammar - Quantifiers

The video uses a variety of quantifiers to give information about San Francisco. Look at the examples below:

*Quantifiers for Uncountable **or** Countable Nouns*

- "Relax and recharge in **some** peaceful surroundings..."
- "There's **no end of** things to see..."
- Other common examples: **a lot of, lots of**

Quantifiers for Uncountable Nouns

- "...**a little bit of** eastern mystique..."
- Other common examples: **(not) much**

Quantifiers for Countable Nouns

- "...**one of** the largest Chinese communities..."
- "...the Golden Gate Bridge invites **millions of** visitors to the city..."
- "...there are still **many** pockets of counterculture..."
- "...tours departing from Fisherman's Wharf **several** times a day..."
- "...storefronts selling **all manner of** goods..."
- "...the Embarcadero has **a great assortment of** shops..."
- Other common examples: **a few**

The Use of "Any"

- "...take a short stroll down **any** street will bring you to the most beautiful views of the bay..."

In the example above the word *any* is synonymous with *all*; it is not important which street you choose, every street will bring you to a beautiful view.

Quantifier	Countable or Uncountable	Degree
some	countable and uncountable	+
no end of	countable and uncountable	++
a lot of	countable and uncountable	++
lots of	countable and uncountable	++
a little bit of	uncountable	+
not much	uncountable	-
one of, two of <i>etc.</i>	countable	depends on number
millions of, hundreds of <i>etc.</i>	countable	depends on number
many	countable	++
several	countable	depends
all manner of	countable	++
a great assortment of	countable	++
a few	countable	+
any	uncountable and countable (sing.)	= all

Activity

You are going to prepare a presentation on a city you have lived in or visited, try not to choose a city that someone else has chosen. Using the *Expedia* video as inspiration you are going to prepare a 3 to 4 minute script using the grammar of quantifiers to help you practice the difficult rules.

If you need some extra help, complete the exercise below to get you started on what you are going to talk about.

MY CITY: _____

Tick the statements that are correct about your city then try to change the ones that are false to make them true.

1. "There's no end of things to see..."
2. "My city has one of the largest Italian communities in the area..."
3. "The city centre has a great assortment of shops..."
4. "There are some very old buildings..."
5. "You can eat some great food in any of the city's restaurants..."
6. "There are walking tours around the centre several times a day..."
7. "Millions of people visit the city every year..."
8. "You can escape the city and visit the countryside of a little bit of relaxation..."
9. "There is a great assortment of restaurants where you can sample all manner of cuisines..."
10. "You can see one of the most spectacular buildings in the world..."
11. "One of the best things to do is sit down at a bar and watch life go by..."
12. "If you are a sports fan, you can watch all manner of sports..."