



GRAMMAR TIPS BY
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Are **big** and **large** the same? Well, they share some similarities, but below you can find how they are different:

BIG

more than average

Our office is quite big.

very important

This is a big decision.

successful

Milan is a big fashion hub.

powerful

There was a big earthquake yesterday.

older

He's like my big brother.

FIXED EXPRESSIONS:

big deal - big fish
big ideas - big time
to have a big mouth
big name - the Big Apple
Mr. Big - to think big
to see the big picture
to have bigger fish to fry
to have bigger eyes than your stomach

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LARGE

more than average

Same meaning as 'big', but more formal

The town was quite large with lots of business buildings.

with quantity words

a large amount

to a large extent

on a large scale

a large percentage of

a large number of

a large part of

a large quantity of

a large volume

a large proportion

a large area

FIXED EXPRESSIONS:

At large
By and large
Larger than life

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Time to practice!

Complete the following sentences with big (or bigger) and large (or larger):

1. Have you seen the new office? It's really ___.
2. I told you not to trust him. He's got a ___ mouth.
3. They must have invested a ___ amount of money in that building.
4. The new hire seems very ambitious, I like how she thinks ___.
5. Quitting your job is such a ___ decision!
6. New York is an expensive city but, by and ___, I love to live here.
7. My manager is always very kind with me, he feels like my ___ brother.
8. I'm not a ___ fan of meetings.
9. A ___ percentage of our employees prefer to have Sundays off.
10. You haven't heard of Mr. Bauer? He's a ___ fish.
11. You like that actor? He's always seemed ___ than life.
12. What I like about her is that she always sees the ___ picture.
13. I don't want to keep calling him, I'm sure he has ___ fish to fry.
14. Most tax evaders are still at ___.
15. To a ___ extent, our recruiting team is aware of unconscious bias and are working towards overcoming it.

Check the solutions to the previous exercise:

1. Have you seen the new office? It's really **big**.
*Here, **large** would be technically correct, but it would sound too formal.
2. I told you not to trust him. He's got a **big** mouth.
3. They must have invested a **large** amount of money in that building.
4. The new hire seems very ambitious, I like how she thinks **big**.
5. Quitting your job is such a **big** decision!
6. New York is an expensive city but, by and **large**, I love to live here.
7. My manager is always very kind with me, he feels like my **big** brother.
8. I'm not a **big** fan of meetings.
9. A **large** percentage of our employees prefer to have Sundays off.
10. You haven't heard of Mr. Bauer? He's a **big** fish!
11. You like that actor? He's always seemed **larger** than life.
12. What I like about her is that she always sees the **big** picture.
13. I don't want to keep calling him, I'm sure he has **bigger** fish to fry.
14. Most tax evaders are still at **large**.
15. To a **large** extent, our recruiting team is aware of unconscious bias and are working towards overcoming it.