

# EXPRESSIONS OF QUANTITY

## COUNT AND UNCOUNT NOUNS:

It is important to understand the difference between COUNT and UNCOUNT NOUNS.

COUNT NOUN	UNCOUNT
a cup	water
a girl	sugar
an office	milk
an apple	music
a pound	money
a chair	weather
an hour	work
an uncle	fruit
a house	tea

We can say(three cups, two girls, ten pounds)because they are Countable Nouns. We can not say(two waters, three milks, one money)because they are Uncountable Nouns.

Annotation: Count Nouns can be singular or plural.

EX. This cup is full.

EX. These cups are empty.

Annotation: Uncountable Nouns can only be singular.

EX. The water is cold.

EX. The weather was very nice.

## USING SOME AND ANY:

There are two situations for Some and Any.

## AFFIRMATIVE

SOME is used in positive sentences.

SOME is used in front of Plural Count Nouns.

EX: I have some books.

SOME is used in front of Uncountable Nouns.

EX. I would like some sugar.

Annotation: SOME isn't in front of singular count Nouns.

EX: \*She has some book.

## QUESTION

SOME is used in question sentences.(request or offer)

EX: Would you like some tea?

EX: Do you have some money?

## Grammatically Structure

SOME+ PLURAL COUNT NOUNS OR UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

EX. Does Peter have some money?

EX: Helen has some money.

\*SOME +SINGULAR COUNT NOUNS

EX:\*They have some paper

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ANY is with negative sentences.

EX: Peter doesn't have any money.

ANY is used with plural Count Nouns.

EX: I don't have any matches.(Plural Count Nouns)

ANY is used with Uncountable Nouns.

EX: I don't have any money.(Uncountable Nouns)

ANY is used with question sentences.

ANY+ PLURAL COUNT NOUNS?

EX: Is there any sugar in this tea?

ANY is used with Uncountable Nouns?

EX: Have you got any brothers and sisters?

## USING MUCH AND MANY

MUCH and MANY have two situations.

MUCH is used with negative sentences.

MUCH is used in front of Uncountable Nouns.

MUCH+UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS.

EX: There isn't much milk left.

EX: We didn't spend much money.

EX: I don't go out much.

MUCH is used with question sentences.

Much is used in front of Uncountable Nouns.

MUCH+UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS?

EX: How much money have you got?

How much sugar do you put in your tea?

EX: How much water do you need to cook rice?

MANY is used with negative sentences.

MANY is used in front of Plural Count Nouns.

MANY+PLURAL COUNT NOUNS

EX: I didn't take many photos on holiday.

EX: I don't get many letters.

EX: There are not many large glasses left.

MANY is used with question sentences.

MANY is used in front of Plural Count Nouns.

MANY+PLURAL COUNT NOUNS

EX: How many people were at the meeting?

EX: Do you know many students?

1-ANNOTATION: MUCH IS NOT USED IN FRONT OF SINGULAR COUNT NOUNS AND PLURAL COUNT NOUNS.

EX:\*There isn't much car left.

EX:\*There are not much cars left.

2-ANNOTATION: MUCH IS NOT USED WITH AFFIRMATIVE SITUATION.

EX: \*I spent much money.

3-ANNOTATION: MANY IS NOT USED IN FRONT OF SINGULAR COUNT NOUNS AND UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS.

EX: \*I took many photo on holiday.

EX:\*I didn't hear many music last time.

4-ANNOTATION: MANY IS NOT USED WITH AFFIRMATIVE.

EX:\*I get many letters.

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USING A FEW AND A LITTLE

A FEW is used with Positive.

A FEW is used in front of Plural Count Nouns.

A FEW+PLURAL COUNT NOUNS.

EX: Jane gets a few letters.

EX: There are a few cigarettes left, but not many.

A FEW=some, a small number

EX: I enjoy my life here. I have a few friends and we meet quite often.

EX: When did you last see Clare? A few days ago.

ANNOTATION: (ONLY A FEW)HAS A NGATIVE MEANING.

EX: The village was very small. There were only a few houses.

ANNOTATION: A FEW IS NOT USED IN FRONT OF SINGULAR COUNT NOUNS AND UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS.

EX:\*Jane gets a few letter.

Ex:\*There is a few water left, but not many.

1-ANNOTATION: FEW(WITHOUT A)IS NEGATIVE IDEAS(NOT MUCH/NOT MANY).

EX: He isn't popular. He has few friends.(not much, not enough many)

EX: She has luck. She has few problems.(not many problems)

2-ANNOTATION: we can say (VERY FEW).

EX: He has very friends.

3-ANNOTGATION: A FEW OF IS USED IN FRONT OF(BEFORE)A PRONOUN OR DETERMINER.

Articles: a/an, the

Possessive: my, your, etc

(a) few of+ pronoun

EX: Few of us can say that we always tell the truth.

(a) few of+ determiner+ noun

EX: Only a few of the children in this class like mathematics.

A little is used with positive sentences.

A little is used with Uncountable Nouns.

A LITTLE + UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS.

EX: Can you give me a little help?

EX: Tom gets a little tea.

A LITTLE =SOME, SMALL AMOUNT

EX: Do you speak English?( A little)

EX: He spoke a little English, so we were able to communicate with him.

1-ANNOTATION:(ONLY A LITTLE)HAS A NEGATIVE MEANING.

EX: We must be quick. We have only got a little time.

2-ANNOTATION:LITTLE(WITHOUT A)IS NEGATIVE IDEAS(NOT MUCH/NOT MANY)

EX: We must be quick. There is little time.(not much, not enough time)

EX: He spoke little English, so it was difficult to communicate with him.

3-ANNOTATION:YOU CAN SAY(VERY LITTLE)

EX: There is very little time.

4-ANNOTATION: A LITTLE OF IS USED IN FRONT OF(BEFORE)A PRONOUN OR DETERMINER.

Article: a/an, the

Possessives: me, him, her, etc

(a) little of+ pronoun

EX: Could I try a little of your wine?

(a) little of+ determiner+ noun

EX: Only a little of the children in this class like mathematics.

There is a difference between (little and a little) and between (few and a few). Without articles little and few usually have rather negative meanings. They may suggest (not as much/many as one would like) (not as much/many as expected) and similar ideas.

EX: The average MP has little real power.

EX: Few people can speak a foreign language perfectly.

A little and a few are more positive: their meaning is generally closer to (some). They can often suggest ideas like (better than nothing) or (more than expected)

EX: Would you like a little soup?

EX: You don't need to go shopping. We have got a few potatoes and some steak.

COMPARE:

EX: Cactuses need little water. (not much water)

-Give the roses a little water every day. (not a lot, but some)

EX: His ideas are difficult, and few people understand them.

-His ideas are difficult, but a few people understand them.

Quite a few (informal) means (a considerable number).

EX: We have got quite a few friends in the village.

Formal and informal language

Little and few (with no article) are rather formal. In an informal style (ordinary conversation), we generally prefer not much/many, or only a little/few

EX: Come on! We haven't got much time!

EX: Only a few people speak a foreign language perfectly.

Little and Few without nouns, we can drop a noun and use little/few alone, if the noun has already been mentioned.

Little/few+ without noun

EX: Some more soup? Just a little, please.

## COMPLEMENTS

ANNOTATION: Few/Little can rarely be used alone as complements after (be) when a noun has not been dropped.

EX: They had little hope. (not Their hope was little)

(a) little as a modifier

(A) little can modify comparatives

EX: How are you? A little better, thanks.

EX: The new model is little faster than the old one.

Little isn't normally used to modify other adjectives or adverbs.

EX: It isn't very interesting. (not It is little interesting)

A little can be used as (a bit) because a bit is often used as an adverb.

(Before adjectives and adverbs with a critical or negative meaning)

EX: She is a bit old to play with dolls, isn't she.

EX: Can you drive a bit slower? Wait a bit

A bit and A little are used with non-comparative adjectives, the meaning is usually negative or critical.

EX: a bit tired

EX: a bit expensive

EX: a little (too) old

(not a bit kind)

(not a little interesting)

(Before adjectives and adverbs with a critical or negative meaning)

EX: It is a little inconvenient.

EX: You must forgive her - She is a little confused.

EX: They arrived a little late.

The negative form not a little (e.g. She wasn't a little shaken by her experience) is rare and literary.

Note also the expression little known

Little known + Noun

EX: He is studying the work of a little known German novelist.

A lot of, lots of, plenty of are used with Plural Count nouns and Uncountable nouns.

A lot of, lots of, plenty of + Plural count nouns or Uncountable nouns

EX: A lot of luck.

EX: A lot of friends.

EX: Lots of time.

EX: Lots of people.

EX: Plenty of money.

EX: Plenty of ideas.

Plenty of= More than enough

EX: There is no need to hurry. We have got plenty of time.

EX: I have had plenty to eat. I don't want any more.

A lot of, lots of can be used in positive , negative and question sentences.

EX: There is a lot of butter.

EX: I have got lots of friends.

EX: Are there lots of tourists in your country?

EX: There isn't a lot of butter, but there is enough.

The definite article(the)is used with singular and plural, Countable and Uncountable nouns when both the speaker and the listener know the thing or idea already.

A speaker uses(the)when the speaker and the listener have the same thing or person in mind. The shows that a noun is specific.

The is used with

1-Singular Count Nouns

2-Plural Count Nouns

3-Uncountable nouns

The definite article is used

1-Before seas, rivers, hotels, theaters, museums, newspaper

EX: the Atlantic

EX: the British

EX: The Time

EX: the Ritz

2-If there is only one of something.

EX: the sun

EX: the Queen

EX: the Government

3-with superlative adjectives.

EX: He is the richest man in the world.

EX: Jane is the oldest in the class.

The indefinite article (a and an) is used with singular, countable nouns to refer to a thing or an idea for the first time.

A/AN+ Singular count nouns

EX: I have a pen.

EX: A dog is an animal.

EX: I work in an office.

EX: Mr Peter is an old man.

EX: I have uncle.

EX: He works at a university.

EX: I need an hour to finish my work.

EX: I live in a house. He lives in a hotel.

The indefinite article is used

1-with professions.

EX: I am a teacher.

EX: She is an architect.

2-with some expressions of quantity.

A pair of

a little

a couple

a few

3-in exclamations with

what+ a count noun

EX: What a lovely day!

EX: What a pity!

No article is used to make generalizations with:

1-Plural count nouns.

EX: Apples are good for you.

EX: Students use pens and pencils.

2-Uncountable nouns.

EX: I like to listen to music. EX: Rice is good for you.

3-Before plural count nouns and uncountable nouns when talking about things in general.

EX: I like potatoes.

EX: Milk is good for you

4-Before countries, towns, streets, languages, magazines, meals, airports, stations, and mountains.

EX: I had lunch with John.

EX: I bought a newspaper at Heathrow Airport.

5-Before some places and with some forms of transport.

At home	in/on bed	at/to work
at/to school/university	by bus	by plane
by car	by train	on foot

EX: She goes to work by bus.

EX: I was at home yesterday evening.

6-In exclamations with  
what +an uncountable nouns

EX: What beautiful weather!

EX: What loud music!