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## Quantifiers – a few – a little

### Introduction

1) Quantifiers are adjectives and adjectival phrases that give approximate or specific answers to the questions 'How much?' and 'How many?'.

*Sorry, but there isn't **much** left for you to do here.*

2) To answer the questions 'How much?' and 'How many?' certain quantifiers can be used with countable nouns (chairs, apples), while others can be used with uncountable nouns (tea, money).

***How many cousins** do you have? (countable)*

***How much money** did you spend? (uncountable)*

Note that *how much* can also be used when we want to know the price of something. In this case, we can use *how much* with countable nouns (both singular and plural nouns).

***How much** does **this dress** cost?*

*A few, a little, (very) few, and (very) little* are generally used in affirmative statements, not negatives or questions.

Look at the following chart demonstrating the differences between a *few*, a *little*, (*very*) *few*, and (*very*) *little*.

Used with <u>countable</u> nouns (chairs, apples)	Used with <u>uncountable</u> nouns (tea, money)
<b>(very) few</b> = hardly any or not enough	<b>(very) little</b> = hardly any or not enough
<i>I've got <b>(very) few</b> friends. I need to be more outgoing.</i>	<i>We have <b>(very) little</b> tea left. I doubt that it will be enough for 6 cups of tea.</i>
<b>a few</b> = some or enough	<b>a little</b> = some or enough
<i>I know that I've got <b>a few</b> friends but they're the best!</i>	<i>We have <b>a little</b> tea left. Shall I make you some tea then?</i>

### Short Story Dialogue

– Jane is so lucky! She has **few problems** with Spanish.

– Well, she's been studying for 4 hours a day for the past 3 years. So it's not like she does **very little work**.

– Yeah, but still she has such a great result! On the other hand, I make **a few mistakes** and people can't understand what I'm saying. It's so frustrating!

– Then you have to study more!

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## Independent Practice - Quantifiers – a few – a little

### 1) Fill in the gaps with *a few*, *a little*.

- a. There is ..... water in the kettle.
- b. We had ..... snow last winter.
- c. There were ..... students in the room.
- d. I have ..... relatives living nearby.
- e. I speak ..... Italian.

### 2) Fill in the gaps with *few*, *little*.

- a. Sorry, but I've been very busy lately. I have ..... free time.
- b. This is a very modern city so there are ..... old buildings.
- c. Amy isn't very popular. She has ..... friends at school.
- d. I have very ..... ideas. I doubt I can help you.
- e. She drinks very ..... water during the day.

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## Independent Practice: Answers- Quantifiers – a few – a little

### 1) Fill in the gaps with *a few*, *a little*.

- a. There is **a little** water in the kettle.
- b. We had **a little** snow last winter.
- c. There were **a few** students in the room.
- d. I have **a few** relatives living nearby.
- e. I speak **a little** Italian.

### 2) Fill in the gaps with *few*, *little*.

- a. Sorry, but I've been very busy lately. I have **little** free time.
- b. This is a very modern city so there are **few** old buildings.
- c. Amy isn't very popular. She has **few** friends at school.
- d. I have very **few** ideas. I doubt I can help you.
- e. She drinks very **little** water during the day.