

Quantifiers.

Grammar: some, any, much many, little, few and a lot

1 Complete the sentences with *some* or *any*.

- 1 I wanted to buy _____ biscuits, but I didn't have _____ money, so I went home to get _____.
- 2 Do you have _____ brothers or sisters?
- 3 Would you like _____ sugar?

Now complete the rules. Use *some* or *any*.

- a. In positive sentences, we use _____ before uncountable nouns and plural countable nouns.
- b. In negative sentences and questions, we use _____ before uncountable nouns and plural countable nouns.

2 Complete the sentences with *much*, *many* or *a lot (of)*.

- 1 There are _____ people here.
- 2 Patrick didn't have _____ time.
- 3 We haven't seen _____ places yet.
- 4 There wasn't _____ point in hanging around.
- 5 Gary doesn't seem to have _____ friends, but his brother has _____.
- 6 The tourist office didn't have _____ information to give us.

Now complete the rules. Use *much*, *many* or *a lot (of)*.

- a. In positive sentences, we use _____ before uncountable nouns and plural countable nouns.
- b. In negative sentences and questions, we use _____ before uncountable nouns and _____ before plural countable nouns. However, it is possible to use _____.

3 Complete the sentences with *little*, *few*, *a little* or *a few*.

- 1 Well, I've got _____ time to spare. Shall we go out and grab a coffee?
- 2 There were _____ people at the party, so it was rather boring. We left early.
- 3 Would you mind if I asked you _____ questions?
- 4 Jon seems to have very _____ luck. Nothing ever goes right for him.
- 5 As there were only _____ items on the agenda, we finished the meeting early.
- 6 Come on, hurry up. I've got _____ time to spare.
- 7 Frankly, there were only _____ places left, so we would never have got in even if we'd called earlier.

8 We've been back to Turkey _____ times now, and we always enjoy it.

Now complete the rules. Use *little*, *few*, *a little* or *a few*.

- a. We use _____ and _____ before uncountable nouns.
- b. We use _____ and _____ before plural countable nouns.
- c. _____ and _____ express a positive idea, whereas _____ and _____ express a negative idea.
- d. We say very _____ and very _____, but only _____ and only _____.

What to expect in the exam

Part 1 of the Reading and Use of English Paper focuses mainly on vocabulary. You need to know the meaning, grammar and collocations of a word. This is an area of the exam where the use of expressions of quantity might be checked. Try the example of Part 1 of the exam below.

Part 1

For questions 1–8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap. There is an example at the beginning (s).

Example: A number B few C quantity D several

The meeting

We were surprised that quite a (0) _____ people turned up at the meeting. We knew that there were a (1) _____ of people opposed to foxhunting in the village, but we didn't think that (2) _____ would be prepared to come out on a cold, wet Wednesday evening. Walter spoke for a (3) _____ moments about what the committee had been doing during the past month, then we asked whether there were (4) _____ questions from the audience. A young man, who was sitting (5) _____ seats back from the front, pushed his chair back, stood up, and said that there was very (6) _____ point in having meetings if (7) _____ was prepared to take (8) _____ sort of action.

1 A lot B many C few D little

2 A much B lot C many D lot of

3 A little B several C few D some

4 A a B any C much D a lot of

5 A a number B a little C number D a few

6 A few B small C little D minor

7 A someone B everyone C anyone D no-one

8 A any B many C a lot of D several