

How to express quantity ? (4)

a little

a few



little

few



a little

- ⇒ a small quantity, not much
- ⇒ with uncountable nouns only

Ex : She didn't eat, but she drank a little water.
I can speak a little German.



a few

- ⇒ a small amount, not many
- ⇒ with countable nouns only

Ex : Sorry, I only have a few cookies left.
I only speak a few words of German.



little

- ⇒ almost nothing, nearly no
- ⇒ with uncountable nouns only

Ex : We need to go shopping, there's little food.
Dan is skinny because he eats very little.



few

- ⇒ not many, not enough
- ⇒ with countable nouns only

Ex : They only have few photos on Instagram.
You're good ! You make very few mistakes



Compare little and a little

I have little money



I have a little money



Compare few and a few

I have few friends



I have a few friends



Exercise 1 - Complete the sentences with "a" when necessary (when unnecessary, write "x").

- Could you give me ____ little money ?
- The movie was disastrous : ____ few people understood the subject.
- He will arrive in ____ few minutes.
- I am so hungry ! Give me ____ few biscuits please.
- I know the Eiffel Tower very well : I have been to Paris ____ few times.
- He wants to lose weight : he uses ____ little oil when he cooks.
- Everybody needs ____ little luck.