4

A little and *a few*

Using *(a) little* and *(a) few* when talking about things

In this unit you learn about words used to talk about quantity.

Maggie We're cooking tonight. Let's see how much food we've got.

Daniel OK. We've got **plenty of** rice and **lots of** tomatoes. We've also got **several** onions.

Maggie Great! How about cheese?

Daniel Well, we've only got **a little** and there are only **only a couple of** eggs. I think we need three or four. And there are **hardly any** mushrooms.

Maggie OK so we need to buy eggs, cheese and **a few** mushrooms.

The table below shows you which phrases are used to show **a lot** or **not much/many**.

A lot	Not much/many
a lot of	a little
plenty of	very little
lots of	only a couple of
several	hardly any
	a few

- You use **a little / little** before uncountable nouns and **a few / few** before countable nouns:

  *There's only **a little** food in the fridge.*
  *I bought **a few** books yesterday.*

- These sentences show the difference between **few, a few, little** and **a little**:

  *I have **few** friends. = I don't have many friends.*
  *I have **a few** DVDs. = I have some DVDs.*
  *There was **very little** food left at the end of the party. = There wasn't much food left.*
  *There was **a little** food left at the end of the party. = There was some food left.*

- You can only use **several** and **a couple of** before countable nouns:

  *There are **a couple of** people waiting for you.*
  *I've been to **several** football matches this year.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

- You can use these phrases as short answers to questions. You do not use **of** in short answers:

  A: How much homework have you got?
  B: ***Hardly any!***

  A: Have you got any money?
  B: ***A little.***

  A: Have you seen any of his films?
  B: ***A couple.***

> ***Remember!***
>
> **A lot of, lots of, plenty of** and **hardly any** can be used with countable and uncountable nouns.
>
> *We've got* ***lots of*** *milk/bananas.*
> *She eats* ***hardly any*** *fruit/vegetables.*

Exercise 1

Put the correct word or phrase in each gap.

lot | little | plenty | hardly | a few | couple

Hi Nick

Nice to get your message. I'm afraid Anna's party didn't go so well. She invited [1]_____ of people but only [2]_____ came. A [3]_____ of neighbours joined us (Paul and Sophie – I think you know them?) but [4]_____ any of the people Anna invited from work came. I think she was quite upset. There was a [5]_____ of food left at the end of the evening. Very [6]_____ was eaten. It was a shame.

Perhaps you could call Anna and have a chat?

Love
Alessandra

Exercise 2

Are the bold words correct or incorrect in the sentences, as shown?

1 There's only **a few** ☒ pasta left.
2 We're only here for **a few** ☑ days.
3 Are there any cafés near here? Yes, **a little** ☐.
4 She has **lot of** ☐ friends.
5 How many people were there? **Several** ☐ – just one or two.
6 How much milk is there? **Plenty.** ☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 3

Complete the sentences by writing one word in each gap.

much | several | plenty | a little | hardly | couple

1 You're too late for the cake – I'm afraid there isn't _____ left.
2 I've got _____ of books for my holiday now.
3 I know a _____ of the teachers at Charlotte's school.
4 Jude Law is in _____ films that I hate.
5 There's _____ any coffee in the cupboard.
6 There's not much pizza left and only _____ salad.

Exercise 4

Match the sentence halves.

1 I have a couple of	**a** few friends.
2 The poor guy had very	**b** of tickets left for the show.
3 I have hardly	**c** of cake left, if you want it.
4 There are plenty	**d** cheese in the fridge.
5 There isn't much	**e** any money left.
6 There's a bit	**f** really good friends in Paris.

Exercise 5

Choose the correct word, as shown.

1 A: There were plenty of people there, weren't there? B: Yes, **a couple / lots**
2 A: There wasn't much snow last year, was there? B: No, very **little / few**.
3 A: There aren't many trees here, are there? B: No, very **little / few**.
4 A: Did Diana get many presents for her birthday? B: Yes, **a few / few**.
5 A: Is there any coffee left? B: Only **a little / a few**, I'm afraid.
6 A: How many different kinds of cake can you make? B: **Several / A little**.

Exercise 6

Decide if the pairs of sentences have the same meaning, as shown.

1 **A** There is little food.
B There is not much food. ☑

2 **A** There is plenty of food.
B There is some food but not a lot. ☐

3 **A** Dave has a few sweets in his pocket.
B There are no sweets in Dave's pocket. ☐

4 **A** She has few friends.
B She hasn't got many friends. ☐

5 **A** I have a few ideas for my essay.
B I have some ideas for my essay. ☐

6 **A** We had little hope that we could win.
B We knew that we could win. ☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5

Possessive pronouns

Using pronouns to show who things belong to

mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs; one/ones; no/none

In this unit you learn to use pronouns to talk about who things belong to. You also learn about using **one, ones, no** and **none**.

You use possessive pronouns (**mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs**) when you talk about who things belong to.

*It's not my DVD. It's **his**.*
*See that car over there. It's **ours**.*
*Give me back that book. It's **mine**!*

You can also use **of** before a possessive pronoun.

*I know Fiona very well. She's a very good friend **of mine**.*
*Is it true that our new teacher is a neighbour **of yours**?*

Subject pronoun	Possessive pronoun
I	mine
you	yours
he	his
she	hers
we	ours
they	theirs

You use **one** and **ones** as pronouns for things.

A: I've got a few DVDs here. What do you want to watch?
*B: Well, this **one** is really funny. Let's watch that.*

*A: These trainers all look the same. Which **ones** are yours?*
*B: The **ones** with the green stripes.*

You can use **no** before a singular or a plural noun.

*There were **no** people at the tennis courts yesterday.*
*There was **no** food left at the end of the party.*

None (of) is always followed by a plural verb.

***None of** my friends are going to the concert next week.*
*I need to go shopping. **None of** my clothes fit me.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 1

Match the sentence halves.

1 Rebecca is a cousin of mine. She's	**a** next to each other in Maths and English.
2 Ryan was a pupil of my husband's. He was in	**b** together at the hospital.
3 Marie was a colleague of Daniel's. They worked	**c** each other for years.
4 Jane is a neighbour of Peter's. She has	**d** the oldest daughter of my mother's sister.
5 Louise is a classmate of Ella's. They sit	**e** a flat in the same building.
6 Karen is an old friend of mine. We've known	**f** his class at Park School.

Exercise 2

Complete the sentences by writing one word in each gap.

ours | mine | theirs | yours | hers | his

1 I didn't have my mobile with me, so Hans lent me _____.
2 You look cold. If you haven't got a jacket, use _____ – I'm not cold.
3 We don't need to buy a tent. Angie and Julian aren't using _____, so they said we can borrow it.
4 We have the same pens, don't we? Is this mine or _____?
5 I thought this book was mine but my sister said it was _____. She's right – it's got her name in it!
6 We bought that ball last summer, don't you remember? It's definitely _____.

Exercise 3

Match the two parts.

1 It's Tom's book.	**a** It's hers.
2 It's definitely Maria's mobile.	**b** They're yours.
3 Those tennis rackets belong to us.	**c** It's his.
4 That umbrella belongs to me.	**d** They're ours.
5 The plates are the neighbours'.	**e** They're theirs.
6 You brought those cups with you, Melissa.	**f** It's mine.

Exercise 4

Complete the sentences by writing one word in each gap.

his | ours | hers | theirs | yours | mine

1 Mrs Andrews was a favourite teacher of _____, but I was the only student who liked her!
2 I met Greg at your house – I think it was at a party of _____.
3 I saw those two guys with Maria in a café yesterday. They're new friends of _____.
4 Jim and I have known Sophie and Rick for years. They're really good friends of _____.
5 I'm not sure how Adam knows George. Perhaps he's a neighbour of _____.
6 Beth goes to a different school from me. She goes to school with Isabelle and Mia. She's a classmate of _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 5

Put the correct word in each gap.

one	yours	ones	his	ours	hers

After the party

Everybody brought something to eat, and now I need to decide who these things belong to. I remember my aunt bringing the blue plates so these are definitely [1]_____. James brought this green one with a cake on it, so that's [2]_____. These white [3]_____ are ours and this pink [4]_____ is Sarah's. The knives and forks are definitely not [5]_____ because the ones we have look much older than that! Ah, Helen, I have a bowl here that belongs to you. This is [6]_____, isn't it?

Exercise 6

Put each sentence into the correct order.

1 is / umbrella / mine / that / .
That umbrella is mine.

2 pen / that / yours / is / ?
_____

3 mine / a / he's / friend / of / .
_____

4 a / colleague / she's / Amy's / of / .
_____

5 he / of / yours / a / friend / is / ?
_____

6 yours / that / is / mine / or / ?
_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

6

Possessive 's and s'

Using *s* to show who things belong to

's/s' + people, things, places

In this unit you learn to talk about who things belong to using **'s, s'** and **of**. You also learn some more irregular forms for plural nouns.

Use of the apostrophe ('s and s')

You use **'s** and **s'** to talk about people's possessions and their relation to each other.

*Silvia is **David's** wife.*
*Anna and Mark are **Jane's** cousins.*
***My parents'** best friends live in Canada.*

Sometimes, when the meaning is clear, you can use **'s** without a noun.

*I've seen that car before. It's Diana**'s**.*
*Rob is at Tom**'s**. (= Tom's house)*

If a name ends in **s,** you just add the apostrophe **'** to show possession.

*I think James**'** painting is better than mine.*

> ***Remember!***
>
> You use **of** + *noun*, not **'s** to talk about objects.
> *The walls **of** the house are green.*
> *There's a button at the back **of** the computer.*

You can also talk about times and places using **'s** and **s'**.

*I've just got three **days'** work in a shop.*
*Bob's lucky. He's having a **week's** holiday next month.*
***London's** shopping centres are very busy in December.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS