

QUANTIFIERS

A **quantifier** is a word or phrase that is used before a noun to indicate quantity or amount.

(i) 'Many', 'several', 'a few' and 'a large number of' are **quantifiers** used before countable nouns.

Examples:

1. There are **many** spectators in the stadium.



2. **Several** passengers were injured in the accident.



3. Only **a few** pupils in the class passed the test.



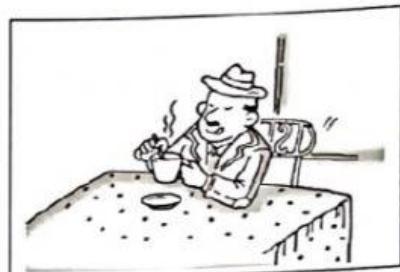
4. Mr Owen has **a large number of** ostriches on his farm.



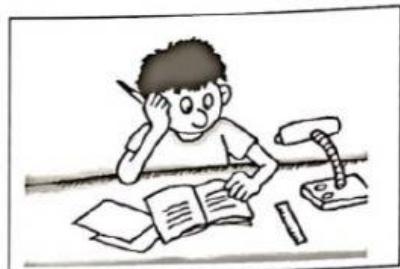
(ii) 'Much', 'a little' and 'a large amount of' are **quantifiers** used before uncountable nouns.

Examples:

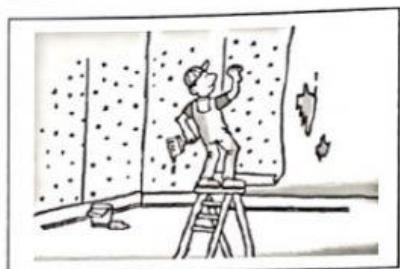
1. The coffee is too sweet. There is too **much** sugar in it.



2. I just need **a little** extra time to finish my work.



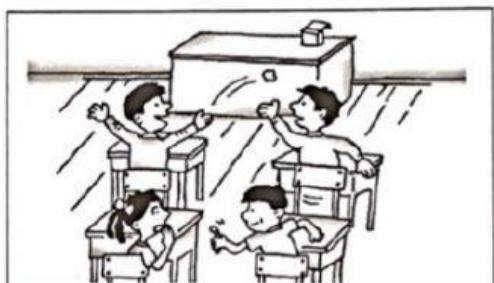
3. Mr Lee spent **a large amount of** money to renovate his house.



(iii) 'Some', 'any', 'plenty of' and 'a lot of' are **quantifiers** used before countable and uncountable nouns.

Examples:

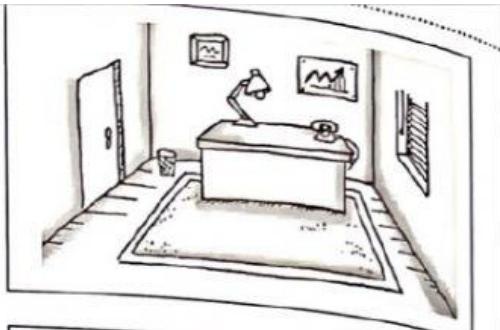
1. **Some** pupils were very noisy.



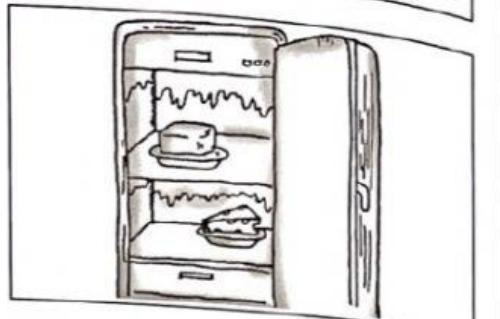
2. I gave the beggar **some** food.



3. There aren't **any** people in the office.



4. Is there **any** butter in the fridge?



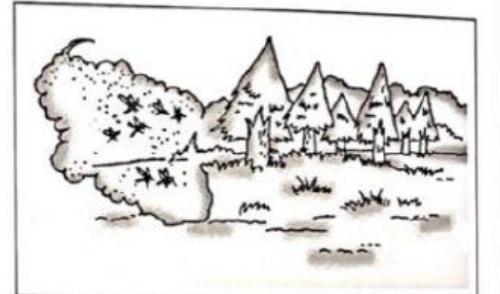
5. There are **plenty of** tickets for the show.



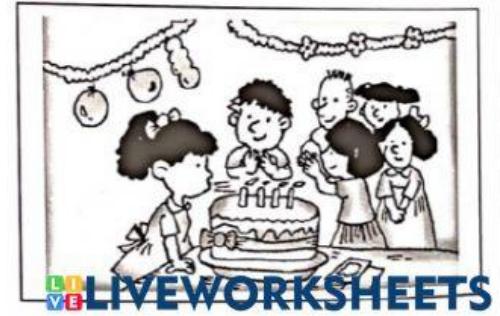
6. Peter puts **plenty of** jam on his bread.



7. There are **a lot of** mosquitoes in this forested area.



8. The children had **a lot of** fun at the party.



More examples:

1. How **many** patients are there in the ward?
2. My brother has **many** friends.
3. Mr Smith can speak **several** languages.
4. The magician has taught me **a few** tricks.
5. There are **a few** birds on the tree.
6. There is **a large number of** birds in the bird park.
7. I don't drink **much** tea.
8. There isn't **much** money left in his pocket.
9. Just add **a little** sugar to my coffee.
10. There is still **a little** milk in the bottle.
11. We need **a large amount of** sand to fill the pit.
12. There are **some** cakes on the table.
13. Would you like **some** more tea?
14. Are there **any** other bookshops nearby?
15. Is there **any** paper in the drawer?
16. The teacher always gives us **plenty of** work to do.
17. I have **plenty of** time to finish my homework.
18. Babies need **a lot of** sleep.
19. I have **a lot of** friends.
20. There are **a lot of** ants on the ground.

EXERCISE 36

(A) Underline the correct answer for each of the following sentences.

1. Would you like (a little / a few) more soup?
2. Jim did not put in (much / many) effort in his work.
3. Is there (some / any) rice in the sack?
4. I bought twenty apples. (Much / Several) of them were rotten.
5. They succeeded because they put in (some / a great deal of) hard work.
6. To buy a new house, you need (a lot of / many) money.
7. At the party, there was (many / plenty of) food for the guests.
8. He wasted (a lot of / several) time waiting for the bus.
9. Eating too (many / much) meat is not good for health.
10. Mrs Finch drinks (a few / a lot of) tea.
11. Don't worry, you still have (a few / a little) time.
12. (A little / A few) of us speak French.
13. There are (much / plenty of) eggs in the basket.
14. Do you keep stamps? I would like to exchange (much / several) of them with you.
15. There is not (any / some) sign of immediate rain.

(B) Fill in the blanks with the correct quantifiers.

1. The lazy pupils say the teacher gives them too _____ homework.
2. Mrs Rogers needs only _____ more strawberries for her cake.
3. Would you like _____ more coffee?
4. Do you have _____ idea where William is now?
5. Please don't make too _____ noise. The baby is sleeping.
6. Just add _____ more pepper to the soup.
7. Are there _____ camels in Australia?
8. You must hurry. You don't have _____ time.
9. Just give me _____ more minutes and I will be ready.
10. Mr Clifford earns _____ money selling cars. He is rich.
11. _____ of these books are quite useful.
12. Have you got _____ money?
13. Please add _____ more sugar to the coffee.
14. Mr Lee drinks _____ coffee every day.
15. There is too _____ salt in the soup.