ENGLISH GRAMMAR

FEW - LITTLE A FEW - A LITTLE



= a small quantity; a small amount

FEW + Plural Countable Nouns

A FEW + Plural Countable Nouns

LITTLE + Uncountable Nouns

A LITTLE + Uncountable Nouns

= not many; not enough; nearly no ...

= some: a small amount

= not much; not enough; nearly no ...

= some; a small amount

FEW

= NOT MANY

(FEW normally conveys a negative idea)

- He has **few** good friends. (negative idea - not enough)

- Few people went to the concert.
- There are **few** honest politicians.

LITTLE = NOT MUCH

(LITTLE normally conveys a negative idea)

- There was **little** time to finish it. (negative idea - nearly no time)
- He has **little** patience with others.
- They have little money to spend.

A FEW

= SOME

(a small amount)

(A FEW normally conveys a positive idea)

- He has **a few** friends that will help. (positive idea - a small amount)
- I have **a few** days off next month.
- She has won a few awards.

A LITTLE

= SOME (a small amount)

(A LITTLE normally conveys a positive idea)

- I have **a little** milk you can use. (positive idea - a small amount)
- She has **a little** time to relax now.
- I have earned a little extra money.

Exercise 1

- 1. a little /a few apples
- 2. a little/ a few rice
- 3. a little /a few bicycles
- 4. a little /a few trees
- 5. a little/ a few boys
- 6. a little /a few money

- 7. a little /a few dogs
- 8. a little/ a few time
- 9. a little /a few sugar
- 10. a little/a few cups

Exercise 2

- 1. We had little/few snow last winter.
- 2. Little/Few people were interested in the exhibition.
- 3. I speak little/few French.
- 4. There are little/few gentlemen nowadays.
- 5. She has little/few relatives.
- 6. There is little/few water in the pond.
- 7. The professor spends little/few time in company.
- 8. We have little/few knowledge of this phenomenon.
- 9. There are little/few mushrooms in my mushroom soup.
- 10. Little/Few animals can survive in the desert.

Exercise 3

- He speaks a little Spanish, so we were able to find a nice room in Madrid.
- 2. There are only a few bananas in the box.
- We need a little butter for this cake.
- 4. There's a little pizza in the fridge for you.
- 5. There are only a few days left to hand in the reports.
- 6. I bought a few apples in this shop.
- 7. Could I have a little milk in my coffee, please?

- 8. Look! There are a few mice on the roof.
- 9. We saw a few people at the bus stop.
- 10. We have a little ketchup and a few sausages.

Exercise 4

- 1. There aren't much / many car parks in the centre of Oxford.
- 2. Eating out is expensive here. There aren't any/some cheap restaurants.
- 3. Liverpool has a lot/many of great nightclubs.
- 4. Hurry up! We only have a few/ a little time before the coach leaves.
- 5. We saw a little of /some beautiful scenery when we went to Austria.
- 6. There are a few/any shops near the university.
- 7. It's very quiet. There aren't much /many people here today.
- 8. There are some/a little expensive new flats next to the river.