

# 13

## Talking about amounts (II)

You went on a shopping spree again? You've bought **a lot of** things!

You're crazy!

Actually, I bought **few** things: **a little** nail polish and body lotion, **a few** blouses, dresses and skirts.



### Usage

Apart from the words we learnt in Unit 12, we can use *a few*, *few*, *a little*, *little*, *many*, *much* and *a lot of* to talk about amounts.

e.g. Mrs Baker is not hungry. She ate **a little** chicken and **a few** cabbages.

e.g. I have **many** projects, so I haven't got **much** time for rest.



### Part 1 A few, Few, A little, Little

We use *a few*, *few*, *a little* and *little* to talk about a **small amount of things**.

We use *a few* and *few* with plural countable nouns.

e.g. There are **a few** birds in the nest.

Plural countable noun

e.g. **Few** students get good results.

We use *a little* and *little* with uncountable nouns.

e.g. There is still **a little** juice in the fridge.

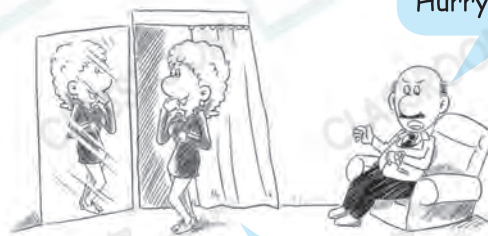
Uncountable noun

e.g. Mr Ho has **little** patience.

**Few** answers are correct.



Hurry up, dear.



Just **a few** minutes.



## Educator's Tips



**Note** the differences between a *few* / *a little*, and *few* / *little*:

<i>A few, a little</i>	<i>Few, little</i>
<i>A little</i> and <i>a few</i> usually have <b>positive meanings</b> . They suggest 'not a lot, but some things'.	<i>Little</i> and <i>few</i> usually have rather <b>negative meanings</b> . They suggest 'some, but not enough of things'.
<p><b>e.g.</b> The young writer won <b>a few</b> awards. He was surprised.</p> <p><b>e.g.</b> Cactuses are easy to plant. They need <b>a little</b> water.</p>	<p><b>e.g.</b> The unpopular actor was welcomed by <b>few</b> fans.</p> <p><b>e.g.</b> The travellers have <b>little</b> water left. They are thirsty.</p>

## Exercise 1

Underline the correct words in brackets.

- The exam was very difficult. ( Little / Few ) students passed it.
- There's ( a little / a few ) soup left. Who wants more?
- A: There are ( a few / few ) film tickets left. We'd better buy them now!  
B: I'm sorry that I could not come. I have ( a little / little ) homework to finish.
- Harold is overweight. He does ( a little / little ) exercise. Sandy asks him to go jogging for ( a few / few ) hours every weekend.



## Part 2 Many, Much, A lot of

We can use *many*, *much* and *a lot of* to talk about a large amount of things.

We use *many* with plural countable nouns.

**e.g.** There are **many** naughty pupils here. **Plural countable noun**

We use *much* with uncountable nouns. We usually use it in negative statements and questions.

**e.g.** Ella doesn't know **much** French. **Uncountable noun**

We use *a lot of* with both plural countable and uncountable nouns.

**e.g.** I ate **a lot of** lobsters at the buffet. **Plural countable noun**

**e.g.** Rona put **a lot of** cream on top of the cake. **Uncountable noun**



## Exercise 2

Decide whether the underlined words are correct or not. If they are correct, put a tick (✓) in the spaces provided. If they are incorrect, write the correct words there.

1. There isn't much rubbish in the street. \_\_\_\_\_ ✓
2. I have much good friends. \_\_\_\_\_
3. There was a lot of rain last summer. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Dad drinks many coffee every day. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Dorothy didn't earn much money in the past. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Let's go to Sai Kung. There are much nice beaches. \_\_\_\_\_

More theme-related vocabulary on P.128 **DSE**

Theme: The world of sports

Text Type: Web page

## Unit Recap

Joe is reading a web page about healthy life. Complete the web page with the words given. Each word or phrase can be used ONCE only.

a few    a little    few    little    many    much    a lot of

www.ilovehealthylife.com.hk

### Dr Scott: How to Be Healthy

Being healthy is the key to a happier life. Dr Scott, the well-known health expert, is going to give us (1) \_\_\_\_\_ pieces of advice. Take (2) \_\_\_\_\_ time to read on.

- Drink (3) \_\_\_\_\_ water

Adults should drink a litre of water or more per day. Drinking (4) \_\_\_\_\_ water a day may make you feel tired easily.

- Do a lot of exercise

You don't need to spend (5) \_\_\_\_\_ hours in the gym every week. Only (6) \_\_\_\_\_ people are free to work out every day. If you don't have (7) \_\_\_\_\_ time, doing a 30-minute exercise twice a week already helps!

