

QUANTIFIERS (7)

Countable vs. Uncountable (01)

In context

2 min

What is a quantifier?



many birds



Little water

Types of Quantifiers

10 min

A quantifier is a word that expresses a quantity.

Some quantifiers are used with countable nouns:

<i>few</i> apples	}	small quantity
<i>a few</i> apples		
<i>a couple of</i> apples		
<i>several</i> apples	}	big quantity
<i>many</i> apples		
<i>most</i> apples		
<i>all</i> apples		

Some quantifiers are used with uncountable nouns:

<i>little</i> water	}	small quantity
<i>a little</i> water = <i>a bit of</i> water		
<i>much</i> water	}	big quantity

Some quantifiers work with countable and uncountable nouns:

Enough apples/water
a lack of apples/water (= not enough)
a lot of apples/water = *lots of* apples/water = *plenty of* apples/water
most of the apples/water
all (of) the apples/water

See the lesson on countable and uncountable nouns for details.

Language Tips on Quantifiers

3 min

In formal English, it is better to use 'many' and 'much' rather than phrases such as 'a lot of', 'lots of' and 'plenty of'.

There is a difference between 'few' and 'a few':

Examples:

Few flowers= not many flowers

a few flowers = some flowers

There is the same difference between 'little' and 'a little':

Examples:

little time = not a lot of time

a little time = some time

Writing Exercise

5 min

Complete the sentences with: **few / a few / little / a little**.

1. Could we have _____ Champagne, please?
2. They live in a very small flat because they have _____ money.
3. Very _____ people can speak 5 languages.
4. This plant needs _____ water and it is very handy.
5. They have already been to Africa _____ times.
6. We have _____ time before our flight.
7. He speaks German very well but sometimes he makes _____ mistakes.
8. I am happy she has _____ problems in her life.
9. Would you like _____ candies?
10. I know _____ about this subject.

Writing Exercise

5 min

Complete the sentences with 'much' or 'many'.

1. I have _____ friends in Europe.
2. I don't drink _____ coffee.
3. How _____ children do you have?
4. How _____ does this bag cost?
5. How _____ rice do you need?
6. How _____ is this shirt?
7. We don't have _____ time.
8. I went to Minnesota _____ times last year.
9. There is not _____ sand in the car.
10. Jim works on _____ different projects.

Reading Exercise

5 min

Read the sentences and find a synonym for the quantifier.

Example:

I have many shoes.

Synonym: I have a lot of shoes.

1. The children have plenty of toys.
2. Would you like a little champagne?
3. He spends the majority of his time on the computer.
4. I sent lots of emails.
5. There is a bit of water on the floor.

Speaking Exercise with the Teacher (LOC-GR7-01-Si1)

5 min

Listen to the teacher's questions. Then, answer.

1. How many children do you have?
2. Do you have lots of friends?
3. Do you have little patience?
4. Do you spend plenty of money on clothes?
5. How much does gas cost in your country? (at the gas station)

Speaking Exercise with the Teacher

5 min

Ask your teacher 4 questions using quantifiers.

1. How many _____?
2. How _____?
2. Do you have _____?
3. _____?

Watch the Video!

5 min

With this video lesson, you will practice quantifiers.

Watch the video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYsZ1cZzwwg>

Watch the video again and complete the text:

Angie is sad. She has _____ friends. Her cat is sick and has _____ time to live. She lives in her car. She has _____ clothing and _____ shoes. She has _____ money to buy what she needs. Sandra is happy. She worked _____ jobs this summer and saved _____ money for college. She has _____ close friends. She is going to spend _____ days camping. She has _____ to relax before the school starts.

Note: in the video, the speaker uses the terms "count nouns" and "non count nouns" to refer to countable and uncountable nouns.

Quiz

10 min

True or False?

- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| 1. There is no difference between 'little' and 'a little'. | true | false |
| 2. 'few' is used with uncountable nouns. | true | false |
| 3. Some quantifiers work with countable and uncountable nouns. | true | false |
| 4. In formal English, it is better to use 'many' and 'much' rather than phrases such as 'a lot of', 'lots of' and 'plenty of'. | true | false |

Match the quantifiers on the left to the appropriate definitions on the right.

1. little energy	a. a bit of energy
2. a little energy	b. a lot of energy
3. a lack of energy	c. not a lot of energy
4. much energy	d. not enough energy

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Choose the correct word(s):

1. They gave the homeless man _____ dollars. (a few / a little)
2. Americans give _____ money to charity. (much / many)
3. _____ women like shopping. (most / most of)
4. His _____ enthusiasm surprised me. (lack / lack of)
5. He drank _____ juice in his glass. (all / all the)
6. Did you buy _____ apples to cook a pie? (enough / much)
7. I wish I could spend _____ time in Egypt. (a few / a little)
8. It took very _____ time to cross Belgium! (few / little)
9. We know _____ people who face the same problem. (several / several of)
10. I stayed in that hotel _____ years ago. (much / many)