

Quantifiers

Count nouns	Mass nouns		Unrestricted use		
1, 2, 3, 4 etc.	<i>either</i>	<i>a bit of</i>	0%, 60% of etc.	<i>certain</i>	<i>none of</i>
<i>a couple of</i>	<i>few</i>	<i>a little</i>	½, ¼ of etc.	<i>enough</i>	<i>plenty of</i>
<i>a few</i>	<i>fewer</i>	<i>a little bit of</i>	<i>a good deal of</i>	<i>heaps of</i>	<i>quantities of</i>
<i>a good / great many</i>	<i>fewest</i>	<i>least</i>	<i>a great deal of</i>	<i>loads of</i>	<i>some</i>
<i>a number of</i>	<i>many</i>	<i>less</i>	<i>the / a plethora of</i>	<i>lots of</i>	<i>the / a lack of</i>
<i>another</i>	<i>neither</i>	<i>little</i>	<i>a quantity of</i>	<i>masses of</i>	<i>the / a majority of</i>
<i>any / the number of</i>	<i>numbers of</i>	<i>much</i>	<i>all</i>	<i>more</i>	<i>the / a minority of</i>
<i>both</i>	<i>several</i>	<i>part of</i>	<i>the / an amount of</i>	<i>most</i>	<i>the remainder of</i>
<i>each</i>	<i>various</i>	<i>the whole</i>	<i>any</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>the rest of</i>

- *many, a few, few* and *several* only occur only with plural count nouns.
- *much, a little* and *little* only occur only with mass nouns.
 - *a few = several* but *few = not many*
It was good to see a few people at the match vs. It was disappointing to see few people at the match
 - *a little = some* but *little = not much*
I'm happy there was a little left for me vs. I'm disappointed there was little left for me
 - *several* is very rarely used with a determiner (e.g., *the several people we met*) and *much* is almost never used that way
- Expressions with *bit* and *part* appear in the mass-only column but, providing the item is divisible into smaller parts, can be used with count nouns as in, e.g.:
I have only read a bit / part of his book
I have broken a bit of the table
 Indivisible nouns are not usually permitted with this quantifier so we cannot have:
**I only want a bit / part of the chairs*
- Modification of quantifiers is common and there are some examples in the list above. We can also have, e.g.:
a huge number of people
a vast amount of beer
a tiny minority of the people
- Three quantifiers are only used for dual numbers: *both, either* and *neither*. Many languages retain a longer list of dual-number determiners and pronouns (as, incidentally, did Old English). *less* is used informally with count nouns but *little* and *?least* are not permitted so we may hear:
There are less people here today
 but not:
?The least chairs are in that room
**There are too little books in the library*
 Using *few, fewer, fewest* is the safe bet for countable nouns.