

UNIT 3

QUANTIFIERS

MUCH, LITTLE, A LITTLE, MANY, FEW, A FEW

Much, little, a little

These are used before **uncountable nouns**.

An uncountable noun is a noun you cannot add a number to.

For example you can say:

“1 book”, “2 books” etc...

But you cannot say:

“1 rice”, “2 rices” etc...

So “rice” is an **uncountable noun**.

Therefore you have to say “much rice”, not “many rice”.

The opposite of “much” is “little”.

“Much” = a large quantity “Little” = a small quantity.

“A little” is between the two: not much and not little.

“A little” = a certain quantity.

Examples:

Do you eat **much rice**?

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No, I don't eat **much rice**. I eat (very) **little rice**.

I ate **a little rice** last night.

Many, few, a few

These are used before **countable nouns**.

A countable noun is a noun you can add a number to. For example:

"1 **book**", "2 **books**" etc...

Be careful! Not all countable nouns take the plurals when you count more than one of them. Irregular plurals are also **countable nouns**.

1 person = 2 people

1 child = 10 children

Therefore, we say: **many books, many people, many children**.

The opposite of "many" is "few".

"**Many**" = a large number "**few**" = a small number.

"**A few**" is between the two: not many and not few.

"**A few**" = a certain number.

Examples:

Do you know **many people** here?

No, I don't know **many people**. I know (very) **few people** here.

I knew **a few people** in the town where I lived before.