

QUANTIFIERS: HIGH-VALUE EBI GRAMMAR

Choose the quantifier by noun type - and watch how small words change meaning.

COUNTABLE PLURAL -> **many / few / a few** | **UNCOUNTABLE** -> **much / little / a little**

1. MUCH / MANY / A LOT OF

Use MUCH with uncountable nouns and MANY with plural countable nouns. A LOT OF works naturally with both.

MUCH + uncountable
much information

information = not counted individually

MANY + plural countable
many devices

devices = one device, two devices...

A LOT OF + both types: a lot of data | a lot of applications

2. FEW vs A FEW

Both are used with plural countable nouns. The article A changes the meaning.

FEW = almost none

Few employees understood the instructions.

A FEW = some

A few employees understood the instructions.

3. LITTLE vs A LITTLE

Both are used with uncountable nouns. Again, A changes shortage to some amount.

LITTLE = almost none

We have little information.

A LITTLE = some

We have a little information.

EBI EXAM TIP: DO NOT IGNORE THE ARTICLE "A"

In paraphrase and gap-fill tasks, FEW and A FEW are not interchangeable; neither are LITTLE and A LITTLE.

few

almost none
negative

a few

some
positive / neutral

little

almost none
negative

a little

some
positive / neutral

QUICK CHECK BEFORE YOU ANSWER

- 1 Is the noun countable or uncountable?
- 2 Is the meaning "almost none" or "some"?
- 3 Does the sentence need a neutral quantity (a lot of)?