

A few, a little ★★

There is a group of words called QUANTIFIERS, which say *how many..?* or *how much...?* Here are two of them.

1 **A few** (= a small number, but positive) [COUNTABLE]
(For a negative view, use *not many* or *few*)



“I’ve got a few more seats at the back”
(not many, but enough for your group)

Give **a few** sheets of paper out to each candidate.
“I’ve just got **a few** more things to tell you”

2 **A little** (= a small amount, but positive) [UNCOUNTABLE]
(For a negative view, use *not much* or *little*)



“I’ve got a little money; I think we can afford the movie.” (not much, but enough for the movie)

“Can I have **a little** more time, please?”
“I’d like **a little** sugar in my coffee.”

For the negative view, see GB No 110; for *less* and *fewer*, see GB No 111.

Quick check

Complete each sentence with a *little* or a *few*:

- 1 He had _____ spare time, so he went to get a coffee.
- 2 I had _____ Latvian workers in the unit.
- 3 Put _____ spring onions in the salad.
- 4 “Can I have _____ milk, please?”
- 5 We can fit _____ more books on to this shelf.
- 6 I need _____ more room for my clothes.
- 7 “If you have _____ time, could you help me on this?”
- 8 “Yes, I have _____ minutes, how can I help?”
- 9 “I have _____ things I need to carry upstairs.”

10 "I think we should add _____ more salt to the soup."