COUNT NOUNS – use A FEW or FEW

A FEW = some (two or three)

Example: I saw a few friends at the mall.
Meaning: I saw some friends at the mall.
Meaning: I saw two or three friends at the mall.

FEW = almost none

Example: He has few friends because he’s unfriendly.
Meaning: He has almost no friends because he’s unfriendly.

NON-COUNT NOUNS – use A LITTLE or LITTLE

A LITTLE = some (a small amount)

Example: I have a little homework.
Meaning: I have some homework.
Meaning: I have a small amount of homework.

LITTLE = almost none

Example: There is little pollution in that country.
Meaning: There is almost no pollution in that country.

PART A. CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER TO COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1. Max: Do you have [a few / few] pieces of paper I can borrow?
3. Pat: I only have [a little / little] money for lunch. Let’s go somewhere inexpensive.
4. Jim: I can lend you [a few / few] dollars if you want.
5. Irene is really unfriendly. She has very [a few / few] friends.
6. She also has very [a little / little] patience with other people.
7. Pablo has many acquaintances, but he only has [a few / few] very close friends.
8. He thinks that it’s better to have [a few / few] close friends, than dozens of acquaintances.
9. Sara likes [a little / little] honey in her tea.
10. Renata likes [a few / few] spoonfuls of sugar in hers.
11. Fran enjoys listening to [a few / few] music when she gets home from school.
12. She is thinking about buying [a few / few] new CD’s next week.
13. We got to the airport early because there was very [a few / few] traffic at 3 am.
14. Since we got there early, we had [a few / few] time to catch a nap in the terminal.

PART B. WRITE THE CORRECT ANSWER TO COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

15. Ben’s pants are getting _________ too short for him. He’s getting taller by the minute!
16. I suppose we’ll have to buy him _________ new pairs of pants this weekend.
17. Employee: I’m sorry, but I’m not finished yet. I need _________ more minutes.
18. _________ May I please have _________ more time to finish my project?
19. Dana: If you’re hungry, I’d be happy to cook you _________ eggs.
20. Tim: No thanks. I ate _________ fruit about 20 minutes ago.
21. Student: I stayed up too late last night; I got very _________ sleep.
22. _________ I wish I could sleep _________ longer, but I have to get to class.
23. Very _________ people are millionaires.
24. I don’t necessarily want to be a millionaire, but I’d like to have _________ more money in the bank.
25. A common saying: Into every life, _________ rain must fall.
26. An Irish blessing: May your joys be many and your troubles be _________.
27. Mari: Can I please borrow your dictionary to look up _________ words?
28. _________ I always use a dictionary, so I make very _________ mistakes in spelling.
29. Tamara speaks very _________ Russian. When she visited Russia, she didn’t speak to anyone in Russian.
30. Tamara can say _________ words in Russian, but only small words like “please” and “thank you”.

http://English-Zone.Com - the BEST English-learning site on the 'Net. Learn English online, print class materials, play games, and more!
All English-Zone.Com materials © Kaye Mastin Mallory - Permission is granted to print this page for personal or class use only.
WORDS OF QUANTITY: a few - few / a little - little

-ANSWER KEY-

An English-Zone.Com Worksheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNT NOUNS – use A FEW or FEW</th>
<th>NON-COUNT NOUNS – use A LITTLE or LITTLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A FEW</strong> = some (two or three)</td>
<td><strong>A LITTLE</strong> = some (a small amount)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example: I saw a few friends at the mall.</td>
<td>Example: I have a little homework.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meaning: I saw some friends at the mall.</td>
<td>Meaning: I have some homework.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meaning: I saw two or three friends at the mall.</td>
<td>Meaning: I have a small amount of homework.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FEW</strong> = almost none</td>
<td><strong>LITTLE</strong> = almost none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example: He has few friends because he’s unfriendly.</td>
<td>Example: There is little pollution in that country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meaning: He has almost no friends because he’s unfriendly.</td>
<td>Meaning: There is almost no pollution in that country.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PART A.** CHOOSE THE CORRECT ANSWER TO COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1. Max: Do you have [a few] pieces of paper I can borrow?
   Lee: Sure. Here’s [a little] paper for you.

2. Brian: I only have [a little] money for lunch. Let’s go somewhere inexpensive.
   Jim: I can lend you [a few] dollars if you want.

3. Irene is really unfriendly. She has very [few] friends.
   She also has very [little] patience with other people.

4. Pablo has many acquaintances, but he only has [a few] close friends.
   He thinks that it’s better to have [a few] close friends, than dozens of acquaintances.

5. Sara likes [a little] honey in her tea.
   Renata likes [a few] spoonfuls of sugar in hers.

6. Fran enjoys listening to [a little] music when she gets home from school.
   She is thinking about buying [a few] new CD’s next week.

7. We got to the airport early because there was very [little] traffic at 3 am.
   Since we got there early, we had [a little] time to catch a nap in the terminal.

**PART B.** WRITE THE CORRECT ANSWER TO COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

15. Ben’s pants are getting [a little] too short for him. He’s getting taller by the minute!
   I suppose we’ll have to buy him [a few] new pairs of pants this weekend.

16. Employee: I’m sorry, but I’m not finished yet. I need [a few] more minutes.
   May I please have [a little] more time to finish my project?

17. Dana: If you’re hungry, I’d be happy to cook you [a few] eggs.
   Time: No thanks. I ate [a little] fruit about 20 minutes ago.

18. Student: I stayed up too late last night; I got very [little] sleep.
   I wish I could sleep [a little] longer, but I have to get to class.

19. Very [few] people are millionaires.
   I don’t necessarily want to be a millionaire, but I’d like to have [a little] more money in the bank.

20. A common saying: Into every life, [a little] rain must fall.
   An Irish blessing: May your joys be many and your troubles be [few].

21. Mari: Can I please borrow your dictionary to look up [a few] words?
   I always use a dictionary, so I make very [few] mistakes in spelling.

22. Tamara speaks very [little] Russian. When she visited Russia, she didn’t speak to anyone in Russian.
   Tamara can say [a few] words in Russian, but only small words like “please” and “thank you”.

http://English-Zone.Com - the BEST English-learning site on the 'Net. Learn English online, print class materials, play games, and more! 
All English-Zone.Com materials © Kaye Mastin Mallory - Permission is granted to print this page for personal or class use only.