

## QUANTIFIERS (B1/B2)

Quantifiers are the words which give us “a rough idea” about the number (countable nouns) or amount (uncountable nouns) of something. Imagine that you open your fridge and see cucumbers. You can take time to count them in order to know the exact number (e.g. There are 6 cucumbers in the fridge) or just have a quick look without counting them (e.g. There are **some** cucumbers in the fridge). In the second example you don't know exactly how many cucumbers there are but the word **SOME** gives you a rough idea.

Let's open our imaginary fridge again and create more examples. What are the equivalents of the words in bold in your language? (The chart below might help)

In the fridge:	Equivalents in your language:
1. There is <b>a lot of</b> ketchup.	1.
2. There aren't <b>many</b> carrots.	2.
3. There isn't <b>much</b> yoghurt.	3.
4. There are <b>a few</b> sausages.	4.
5. There are very <b>few</b> cherry tomatoes.	5.
6. There is <b>a little</b> milk.	6.
7. There is very <b>little</b> soy sauce.	7.
8. There aren't <b>any</b> eggs.	8.
9. There is <b>no</b> cheese.	9.

Countable nouns

a lot of / lots of

uncountable nouns

many

much

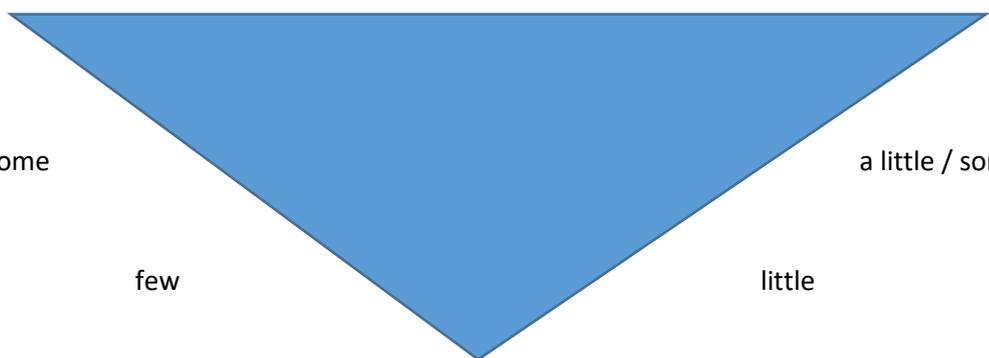
a few /some

a little / some

few

little

no / none



## Let's practise! (speaking or writing)

1. Look at the table below. There are 4 places and in each place there are things or people whose exact numbers have been given. Try to describe these places using quantifiers instead of numbers. For example: *In my drawer there are **a lot of** paper clips. There is **some** paper.*

Remember that if there is just one item, you can always use the indefinite article – *There is **a** crayon.*

<p><b>In my drawer:</b></p> <p>77 paper clips Paper (5 sheets) 4 pencils Chocolate (10 bars) Glue (half a tube) 0 pencils Money (20 pence) 1 crayon 17 phone chargers</p>	<p><b>In my new flat:</b></p> <p>10 frying pans 0 forks 5 knives 1 table 27 forks 0 chairs Dust on the floor (1cm) 2 sockets 3 lamps</p>
<p><b>At a house party:</b></p> <p>10 boys 2 girls Orange juice (10 cartons!) Cake (1 piece) Water (0 bottles) 5 chairs Ham (1 kg) Bread (1 loaf) 2 jars of pickled cucumbers</p>	<p><b>In Luton:</b></p> <p>20 churches 3 parks 4 football pitches 0 lakes 4 post offices 1 shopping mall 5 libraries 13 pubs 2 good restaurants</p>

2. Use **a few / few / a little / little / a lot of / much / many / no** to talk about the quantity of the things below: answer the questions: How much / How many....

- good friends
- free time
- change in your purse / pocket
- work for tomorrow
- dark secrets
- sleep last night
- food in your fridge
- milk in your coffee
- problems in your life
- clothes
- pairs of shoes

3. Form requests using the words in the table. e.g. Can I have **some/a little** milk, please?

<p><b>Can I have.../Could I have...</b></p>	<p><b>a little</b> <b>a few</b> <b>some</b> <b>a / an</b></p>	<p><b>Cup of tea</b> <b>milk</b> <b>sugar</b> <b>plastic bags</b> <b>time</b> <b>word with you</b> <b>carton of orange juice</b> <b>bottles of water</b> <b>advice</b> <b>homework</b> <b>paper</b> <b>chicken</b> <b>fruit</b></p>
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4. Choose a suitable quantifier to fill in the sentences. Use **a lot of, much, many, some, any, no, few, a few, little, a little**. Sometimes there is more than one option.

1. There aren't \_\_\_\_\_ honest people in the world these days.
2. This man is a mystery. We have very \_\_\_\_\_ information about his private life.
3. She isn't the most popular person in the class. She has very \_\_\_\_\_ friends.
4. Our team is losing 1:0 but there is still \_\_\_\_\_ hope that they'll turn the game around.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ students have such good marks. She is an unmatched genius.
6. I've read only the first chapter that's why I don't have \_\_\_\_\_ to say about the characters.
7. There is \_\_\_\_\_ cake left! Ben's eaten the whole thing!
8. Can I ask you for \_\_\_\_\_ patience? I'll be back in 5 minutes.
9. Science doesn't interest me. It's the subject I know very \_\_\_\_\_ about.
10. The party was ok but there wasn't \_\_\_\_\_ dancing.
11. We'd better go to the petrol station. We've got very \_\_\_\_\_ petrol left.
12. Tomorrow's party will be legendary! There'll be \_\_\_\_\_ people!
13. My wallet is empty. I have \_\_\_\_\_ money whatsoever.
14. In his new flat there is \_\_\_\_\_ furniture. Maybe one chair and a small table.
15. Her grades have improved greatly. She's made \_\_\_\_\_ progress.
16. Norway is a very rich country. There isn't \_\_\_\_\_ poverty.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ school subjects are easier than others.
18. I could rely on him in the past but this time he offered me \_\_\_\_\_ help.
19. The suspect was released because too \_\_\_\_\_ evidence was presented.
20. There aren't \_\_\_\_\_ things to do in Egypt that are free of charge.