



## Few / a few, little / a little

### Dialogue:

#### WHAT 'S THE RUSH?

- Wentworth: Hi Sarah, I'm afraid I cannot talk to you a lot... I have very little time. If you 've got questions, please send me an email and I will answer within the week.
- Sarah: Okay then I will do that. But what's the rush?
- Wentworth: My wife and I are holding a small celebration for our children. We are expecting 32 people. We didn't call on catering services. My wife already prepared a lot of nibbles and dishes. But she still has a few dishes to cook. Some ingredients are missing...
- Sarah: So you need to go to the supermarket and buy groceries...
- Wentworth: I was thinking of buying a few frozen dishes and cakes but my wife opposed the idea... She is under a lot of stress and I think she's missing out on the good parts.
- Sarah: The good parts will be once the party is over. Organizing celebrations is always stressful. You want to meet everyone's expectations... You want everything to be perfect. It's a lot of work. She will be more relaxed once she has everything ready and under control.
- Wentworth: Indeed. But the fete is in 2 days. We are arguing a bit, few people confirmed their coming to the party. She is worried about the people, the children, the food, its tastiness ...
- Sarah: Is she doing everything alone?
- Wentworth: Yes, she is. She doesn't want me in the kitchen. Her sister offered to help but she declined.
- Sarah: I think you should be there if she needs you
- Wentworth: she wants me to buy fresh fruit and some organic, gluten-free ingredients. My children know few allergic children so she wants to make sure they can eat a dish or cake.
- Sarah: Few mothers do so. She is very thoughtful
- Wentworth: I know but she's a perfectionist. And I don't want her to wear herself out on such a trivial matter.
- Sarah: Well, give her some moral support! Just be there for her. Let her do things her way.
- Wentworth: I'm trying! Sarah, I must go now! I'll see you on Thursday. Bye!
- Sarah: See you on Thursday!



**Glossary:**

WHAT 'S THE RUSH?	indeed
To send	A fete
To answer	To argue
Within	A bit
then	Few + plural noun
A rush	To confirm
A wife	'their coming'
To hold	worried
To expect	tastiness
To call on	To offer
Catering service(s)	To help
nibbles	To decline
A dish	Should
To miss	To need
groceries	To buy
frozen	Fresh fruit
To oppose (something)	organic
under	Gluten free
To miss out on the good parts	To make sure
once	Thoughtful
A party	Wear one's self out
over	A trivial matter
stressful	support
To meet one's expectations	To do things one's way
ready	To try
Under control	



## Grammar:

**Few / a few, little / a little** are quantifiers to refer to little quantity.

### Few, a few

**A few** is more than **few**.

We use **a few** or **few** with a **countable noun in plural form**.

*a few people, a few clothes, a few pens  
few people, few clothes, few pens*

**A few** is a positive idea.

*I have **a few** ideas on the subject.*

**Few** is a negative idea. A more negative idea is 'very few'.

*I know **few** people in this town.  
The library has **very few** books on the subject..  
(= the quantity is limited and not enough.)*

**A few** and **few** have irregular **comparative and superlative forms**.

*few ⇒ fewer ⇒ the fewest  
a few ⇒ more ⇒ the most*

**A little** is more than **little**.

We use **a little** and **little** with an **uncountable noun**(=always singular).

*a little time, a little water, a little  
courage, little time, little water, little  
courage*

**A little** is a **positive** idea. It is an equivalent to 'not much, but some'.

*I have a little time now so we can discuss.*



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**Little** is a **negative** idea. It is an equivalent to 'nearly no...'. A more negative idea is **very little**.

*Because he has **little** education, he thinks he is not smart but he is!  
I am sorry I have **very little** time, I have to go!*

A **little** and **little** have irregular **comparative and superlative forms**.