



'A little' / 'A few + of'

In English, we use "a little" with uncountable nouns and "a few" with plural countable nouns.

- **He added a little sugar to his tea.**
- **They bought a few tickets for the concert.**

When using pronouns, we use "a little of" before singular pronouns (it / that / this) and "a few of" before plural pronouns (them / those / these).

- **Could you pour me a little of this juice?**
- **We need a few of those tools.**

We can use both "a little of" and "a few of" before possessive pronouns (his, mine, yours, theirs) depending on whether the thing we're talking about is singular or plural.

- **Please take a little of mine** (= my soup).
- **He borrowed a few of hers** (= her books).

We also use "a little of" or "a few of" before determiners (the, her, that) + noun.

- **We used a little of the butter you bought** (we use "little" because "butter" is uncountable).
- **She gave away a few of her old dresses** (we use "few" because "dresses" is plural).

"A little" and "a few" can stand alone if the meaning is clear. However, we **cannot** use "a little of" or "a few of" alone.

- **Is there any honey left? Can I have a little?** (NOT: "a little of")
- **These muffins are delicious. Give your friends a few.** (NOT: "a few of")



Let's practice!

Choose the correct option: a little, a few, a little of, a few of.

1. He poured _____ milk into the glass.
2. These pens are extra; would you like _____?
3. Can you lend me _____ of those screws?
4. She shared _____ her knowledge during the meeting.
5. We found _____ of the missing pieces.
6. He needs _____ this information for the project.
7. Do you have any jam? I'd like _____.
8. They planted _____ new shrubs in the backyard.
9. We require _____ the files you mentioned.
10. Could you save _____ that dessert for later?

Answers:

1. He poured **a little** milk into the glass.
2. These pens are extra; would you like **a few**?
3. Can you lend me **a few of** those screws?
4. She shared **a little of** her knowledge during the meeting.
5. We found **a few of** the missing pieces.
6. He needs **a little of** this information for the project.
7. Do you have any jam? I'd like **a little**.
8. They planted **a few** new shrubs in the backyard.
9. We require **a few of** the files you mentioned.
10. Could you save **a little of** that dessert for later?