

	quantifier	comparative	superlative
increasing ↗			
C	<i>many</i>	<i>more</i>	<i>most</i>
U	<i>much</i>		
decreasing ↘			
C	<i>few</i>	<i>fewer</i>	<i>fewest</i>
U	<i>little</i>	<i>less</i>	<i>least</i>

many/much

The quantifiers ***many*** and ***much*** mean "a large quantity of". We use ***many*** with countable nouns and ***much*** with uncountable nouns:

- Were there ***many*** people at the party? Was it busy?
- We don't have ***much*** time left so let's go soon.

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Note that we tend to use ***many/much*** in negative and question sentences. For positive sentences, especially in informal English, we prefer *a lot of*, or (very informal) *lots of*.

		C	U
+	I've got	a lot of eggs	a lot of rice
-	I haven't got	many eggs	much rice
?	Have you got	many eggs?	much rice?

more, most

Many/much (and *few/little*) are unusual determiners because they have comparative and superlative forms. The comparative form of *many/much* is ***more***; and the superlative form of *many/much* is ***most***. We can use *more* and *most* with countable and uncountable nouns.

Look at these example sentences:

- Many people use the Internet and ***more people*** join every year.
- Last year there was a lot of crime, but there is even ***more crime*** this year.
- Whoever has ***most points*** is the winner.
- Since you have ***the most money***, why don't you pay?

few/little

The quantifiers ***few*** and ***little*** mean "a small quantity of". We use ***few*** with countable nouns and ***little*** with uncountable nouns:

- There were ***few*** *people* in the shop so it didn't take long.
- There is ***little*** *chance* that he will come now so let's go home.

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few/little versus a few/a little

Notice that ***few*** and ***little*** have a "negative" sense:

- He had ***few*** *friends*. (So he was quite lonely.)
- We have ***little*** *time left*. (Just a couple of minutes. Let's go!)

Adding the indefinite article ***a*** changes the emphasis to more "positive":

- He had ***a few*** *friends*. (So he wasn't too lonely.)
- We have ***a little*** *time*. (A bit of time. Let's grab a snack.)

fewer/fewest, less/least

The comparative form of *few* is ***fewer***, and the superlative form of *few* is ***fewest***. We use them with countable nouns:

- There were *few visitors* last week but there are even ***fewer visitors*** this week.
- If Tara has ***the fewest jobs to do***, she can help the others.

The comparative form of *little* is ***less***; and the superlative form of *little* is ***least***. We use them with uncountable nouns:

- The run took *little time* last week and even ***less time*** this week.
- Eric has ***the least work to do*** so he can help you.

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Although *less* is correctly used with uncountable nouns only, many native speakers now also use it with countable nouns, especially in informal English:

- *Less people* came this time.

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Don't confuse the **determiner/quantifier** *little* with the **adjective** *little* (meaning "small"), which can be used with countable nouns:

determiner	There is little time left.
adjective	I have a little dog.

The amount of time

The size of dog

