

# Quantifiers

A quantifier is a word that usually goes before a noun to express the quantity of the object; for example, **a little** coffee. Most quantifiers are followed by a noun, though it is also possible to use them without the noun when it is clear what we are referring to. For example:

“Do you want **some** coffee? – Just **a little**.”  
(It’s clear that I mean ‘a little coffee’.)



There are quantifiers to describe large quantities (a lot, much, many), small quantities (a little, a bit, a few) and undefined quantities (some, any).

There are some quantifiers that have a similar meaning but differ because one is used with countable nouns and the other is used with uncountable nouns. *Countable nouns* are things that we can count; for example, a table, two chairs. *Uncountable nouns* are things that we cannot count and only have a singular form; for example, some furniture, some water.



## MUCH, MANY and A LOT (OF)

We use *many*, *much*, *a lot (of)* to refer to big quantities. We use ‘many’ with countable nouns and ‘much’ with uncountable nouns, and we can use ‘a lot (of)’ with both countable and uncountable nouns. In modern English it is very common to use ‘a lot (of)’ in affirmative sentences instead of ‘many’ and ‘much’.