5.13 The off diagonal elements in the Hessian matrix are the same. So, the number of independent elements in $\mathbf{H} = 1/2$(number of off diagonal elements) + number of diagonal elements.

$$= \frac{1}{2}(W^2 - W) + W = \frac{W^2}{2} + \frac{W}{2}$$

Number of independent elements in $\mathbf{b} = W$.

Therefore, the total number of independent elements in the quadratic error function (5.28) is given by:

$$\frac{W^2}{2} + \frac{W}{2} + W$$

$$= \frac{W^2}{2} + \frac{3W}{2}$$

$$= W(W+3)/2$$