

***Difference
between a few
and few***



- Using a few instead of few in a sentence changes a sentence's meaning. Whereas "a few" implies a small number of some that is greater than two, "few" implies only a small number. Other words, like "very" or "quite", may also come before "a few" or "few" and further change sentence meaning.



few



a few

◆ Few

positive quantity

- -4 -3 -2 -1
- 1 2 3 4

negative quantity

The word **few** represents a **negative quantity** or **shortage**.

◆ A few

They both are used with countable noun.

□ *-a few* has positive meaning.
It means a small amount of something, but it is enough.



□ *-few* has negative meaning.
It means a small amount of something and it isn't still enough.



Few has a *negative* nuance and shows dissatisfaction:

"Few" without the preceding "a" connotes "an insignificantly small number"



A few has a *positive* nuance & shows satisfaction:



"A few" connotes "not an overwhelmingly large number, but not an insignificantly small number either."

Few emphasises the lack of something:

- ▣ *There are few sweets left in the jar.*



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We should be careful not to eat them too quickly because they are almost gone.

A few emphasises that something still remains.

□ *I have a few sweets In the jar.*



This means that sweets is enough for me.



Asel has got **a few** strawberries.
She can make some jam.



Bota has got **few** strawberries.
She can't make any jam.

FEW

'I have FEW books' expresses a negative idea
- I'm not happy with the situation, I do NOT have ENOUGH books.

"I have few friends." (and I'm lonely)

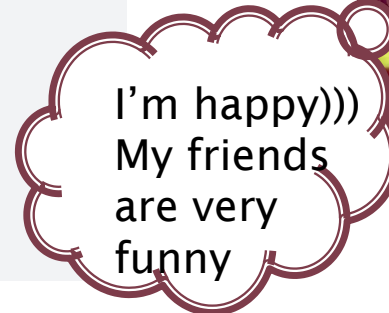
FEW



A FEW

'I have A FEW books' expresses a positive idea
- I'm happy with the situation.

"I have a few friends." (and it's OK with me)



- A few of the students are ready.



- Your homework has so few mistakes.

