



University Centre Abdelhafid Boussof E- learning Centre



English –
MA.2

Lesson Five: Quantifiers

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Students Concerned- Semester 1

<i>Institute</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Specialty</i>
<i>Economic Science</i>	<i>Economic & Commercial Science</i>	<i>Master Two</i>	• <i>All specialties</i>

Objectives of the lesson:

- The goal of this lesson is to teach students how to express the quantity of something, therefore it discusses each quantifier and when it should be used.

Quantifiers

Definition: A quantifier is a word that usually goes before a noun to express the quantity of the object.

➤ *A little milk.*

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.

➤ *Do you want some milk? – Just a little.* (It is clear that I mean ‘a little milk’.)

There are quantifiers to describe:

- Large quantities (*a lot, much, many*).
- Small quantities (*a little, a bit, a few*).
- Undefined quantities (*some, any*).
- Sufficient amount (*enough, plenty*).

There are some quantifiers that have a similar meaning but they are different because one is used with **countable** nouns and the other is used with **uncountable** nouns.

- Countable nouns are things that we can count.

➤ *A bank, two employees.*

- Uncountable nouns are things that we cannot count and only have a singular form.

- *Some furniture, some fruit.*

To express large countable quantities we use “**many**”

- *There are many costumers visited today*

To express large uncountable quantities we use “**much**”

- Much foreign products were imported this year

We use “**a lot**” to express both large countable/uncountable quantities

- *We have a lot of money left, don't worry*

When we want to emphasize a big quantity, we can add ‘**so**’ in front of ‘**many**’ and ‘**much**’.

- *She had so much work to do.*

To express small countable quantities we use “**a few**”

- *We need a few coins for the car park*

To express small uncountable quantities we use “**a little**” or “**a bit**”

- *Would you like a little milk in your coffee?*

To express small quantities negatively we use “**few**” and “**little**” with “**a**”

- *Few costumers bought our product* (a small number of costumers is not good)
- *Little attention is given to our services* (the small amount of attention is a bad thing)

To express a quantity without knowing its amount we use:

- “**some**” in affirmation

➤ *We have **some free time** later this afternoon*

- “**any**” in negatives and questions

➤ *Will there be **any managers** at the party?*

➤ *The bank doesn't have **any good services***

EXCEPTION: When we make requests and offers, we usually use ‘**some**’ instead of ‘**any**’. For example:

➤ *Can I have **some water** please?*

To express sufficient quantity in both countable and uncountable nouns we use “**enough**” & “**plenty**”

➤ *We do not need more employees, we have **plenty!***

➤ *I think we have **enough** money to start a business.*

We use ‘**plenty (of)**’ to mean there is more than a sufficient quantity of something.

➤ *We got **plenty of** time to finish the work*

To ask the quantity of something, we use ‘**how much**’ or ‘**how many**’.

➤ *How **many times** have you visited Rome?*

➤ *How **many people** were at the meeting?*

➤ *How **many chairs** do we need?*

➤ *How **much time** have you got?*

➤ *How **much petrol** shall I buy?*

We also use ‘**how much**’ when we ask the cost of something. For example:

➤ *How **much** do these products cost?*