

LESSON 96

511 **a few**

few

feel sorry for someone

The difference between "a few" and "few" is that "a few" simply means "not many", whereas "few" often expresses the idea of "not enough" or "fewer than expected". If somebody says that they have a few friends, they mean "not many, but some"; they are probably happy with the number of friends they have. However, if somebody says that they have few friends, they mean that they don't have enough friends and that they would like more. If we say "There were few people at the party last night", we mean that there were not enough people at the party, or that there were fewer people than we had expected.

What's the difference between "a few" and "few"?

The difference between "a few" and "few" is that "a few" simply means "not many", whereas "few" often expresses the idea of "not enough" or "fewer than expected"

What do we mean if we say there were few people at the party last night?

If we say ..., we mean that there were not enough people at the party, or that there were fewer people than we had expected

Would you feel sorry for someone who said that they had few friends?

Yes, I'd feel ...

Would you feel sorry for someone who said that they had a few friends?

No, I wouldn't feel ...

In this town, are there few good restaurants, a few good restaurants, or many good restaurants?

In this town, there are ...

512 **a little**

little

The difference between "a little" and "little" is the same as that between "a few" and "few".

"A little" simply means "not much", whereas "little" often expresses the idea of "not enough" or "less than expected". If somebody says that they have a little money, they mean "not much, but some"; they probably have enough. However, if somebody says that they have little money, they mean that they don't have enough money and that they need more. If we say "There has been little rain this month", we mean that there has been less rain than we had expected.

What's the difference between "a little" and "little"?

The difference between "a little" and "little" is that "a little" simply means "not much", whereas "little" often expresses the idea of "not enough" or "less than expected"

What do I mean if I say I have little milk in my fridge?

If you say you have little milk in your fridge, you mean that you don't have enough milk in your fridge

Do you think you have little free time, a little free time, or a lot of free time?

I think I have ...

press

control

such

What am I doing?

You're pressing your thumb on the table

What does this sentence mean: "I had to press him for the money I'd lent him"?

That sentence means that I had to keep asking him for it back

Can we always believe everything we read about famous people in the press?

No, we can't always ...

513 Do you think there should be some control over what the press writes about such people?

Yes, I think ... ~ No, I don't think ...

step

step off

About how many steps would you have to take to walk from one end of this room to the other?

I'd have to take about ... steps to walk from ...

What might happen if you stepped off a bus while it was still moving?

If I stepped off ..., I might fall

Do you have to walk up any steps to enter this building?

Yes, I have to ...
~ No, I don't have to ...

Would it be a big step for you to go and live in another country? Yes, it
t'd be ... ~ No, it wouldn't be ...

bill **come to** **per** **quarter**
pass (a law) **act**

If a couple go to a restaurant together, do you think they should each pay
half the bill? Yes, if a couple ...

I think they should ... ~ No,
if a couple ..., I don't think they should ...

Why or why not?

About how much does your phone (or electricity or gas) bill generally
come to per month (or per quarter etc.) My phone bill ... about ... per ...

514 What happens to a bill after it has been passed by parliament?
After a bill ..., it becomes an act

used to

We use the words "used to" for a habit or repeated action in the past, especially when the action is now finished. For example, the sentence "I used to go to the cinema every Saturday afternoon" means that I was in the habit of going to the cinema every Saturday afternoon, but not now.

When do we use the words "used to", and what does it mean?

We use ... for a habit or repeated action in the past,
especially when the action is now finished

Give me an example, please. I used to go to the
cinema a lot when I was a child

Did you use to speak English better in the past than you speak it now?
No, I didn't use to ...; I used to speak it worse ...

Did you use to eat a lot of sweets when you were a child?
Yes, I used to ... ~ No, I didn't use to ...

B.C. **A.D.** **Christ** **Lord**

The letters "B.C." mean "before Christ", and the letters "A.D." mean "anno domini" (in Latin) meaning "in the year of our Lord", although we usually think of this as meaning "after Christ". For example, "500 B.C." means 500 years before Christ, whilst 500 A.D. means 500 years after Christ.

What do the letters "B.C." mean?

The letters ... "before Christ"

515 What do the letters "A.D." mean?

The letters ... "anno domini"
(from the Latin) meaning ... "after Christ"

trial

When someone is on trial, do they have to promise to tell the truth in court?

Yes, when someone ... , they have to ...

Is it wise to judge something before we give it a trial?

No, it isn't wise ...

Why not?

introduce

from abroad

What'd you like to see introduced into your country from abroad?

I'd like to see ... introduced into my ...



Dictation 62

Before they could ride the horse, / they had to catch it. / Smoking is a bad habit. / He walked into the living room, / loosened his jacket, / sat down and took out his diary. / Although he is a Member of Parliament, / he is not a member / of any political club, / even though he should be / if he wants to succeed. / "At once" means immediately, / whereas "soon" means in a short time.



Do Revision Exercise 41