

«Мало» на английском

Hello my friends! What a gorgeous weather outside today, isn't it? I don't know like you, but I adore the warm spring and summer! It's definitely the best period of a year! I would like you to put aside all your deals this weekend and go out to enjoy this sunny and marvelous day!

Guys, in this article I'd like to tell you about the words «few», «little», «a little», «a few». How to use them properly and what's the difference between these words? Let's clear it up!

In common we use these words when we're talking about not big quantity of things.

Using of the word «little».

«Little» as an adjective basically means «not big» and we use it with nouns.

There is a little table in the room.

These little toys make my child happy.

Also «little» can be used after verbs as a proverb «мало». We must use this word with uncountable nouns only. For example:

My brother reads little currently.

Do you have little money?

If you use the article «a» before «little», it means that you do have a little quantity of something. For example:

I have little sugar. (I'm running out of sugar. I can't help you)

or

I have a little sugar. (I do have some sugar for you)

In spoken English words «little» and «a little» — *мало* mean practically the same. To be honest I never use «little» without article «a» if I want to say «мало».

The phrase «a little bit» is a full form for «a little» and means «немного». In a conversation people usually use «a little» except «a little bit». It's normal.

I speak English a little.

or

I speak English a little bit.

The word «little» has two degrees of comparison.

little — less — least

We use «less» with uncountable nouns also.

Let's try to spend less water than our neighbors.

I spend much less money than you.

We should also use «less» with numbers when they're on their own and in the meaning of measurement or time.

19 is less than 20.

Less than two kilometres left to our house.

This exam lasted less than 40 minutes.

I'd like you to remember these two good phrases — «in less than...» and «more of less»:

In less than one week I'll go to Moscow.

I'm going to go there in less than two days.

I speak French more or less.

There is a good phrase in English — «at least». It's very popular in a conversation.

Could you give me your contacts? At least your telephone number.

It's difficult to watch movies in English without subtitles. At least for me.

Using of the word «few».

We must use «few» or «a few» with countable nouns. And as I noticed this word is mostly used in the meaning «несколько».

Few dogs live more than 15 years.

Few people came to the wedding.

I have a few books.

I'll speak with you in a few minutes.

Only a few students could pass that exam.

The word «few» has two degrees of comparison as well:

few — fewer — fewest

We must use «fewer» with countable nouns only. For example:

I have fewer pets than you.

She has fewer friends than he.

Much fewer people came to visit this museum this year.

As for the word «fewest», I haven't heard many expressions with this word to be honest. I think it's pretty old already not used often nowadays. Anyway, I'll give you an example:

Fewest people come to this region of the city, because it's quite dangerous.

That's it my friends! I hope the article was useful for you! Keep learning English and take care!