

# Quantifiers, simple past and past continuous

## Quantifiers

|                 | Meaning "molto"   | Meaning "poco"  |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Adjective       | <b>Very</b> + aggettivo<br><b>Ex.</b> <i>Very deep; very clear; very noisy; very accurate.</i>                                      | <b>Not very/little</b> + aggettivo<br><b>Ex.</b> <i>Not very/little deep; not very/little clear.</i>  |
| Adverb          | <b>Very much</b><br><b>Ex.</b> <i>I like the book very much.</i>  | <b>Little</b> in frase affermativa<br><b>Ex.</b> <i>They eat little.</i><br><br><b>Very much</b> in frase negativa<br><b>Ex.</b> <i>I don't like the book very much.</i>  |
| Adverb          | <b>Very</b> + avverbio<br><b>Ex.</b> <i>Very late; very early.</i>  | <b>Not very</b> + avverbio<br><b>Ex.</b> <i>Not very late.</i>  |
| Noun (singular) | <b>A lot of</b> + nome singolare<br><b>Ex.</b> <i>(They have) A lot of bread; a lot of wine; a lot of patience; a lot of money.</i> | <b>Little</b> + nome singolare in frase affermativa<br><b>Ex.</b> <i>There is little wine left.</i><br><br><b>Much</b> + nome singolare in frase negativa<br><b>Ex.</b> <i>I haven't got much time. She doesn't show much patience.</i> |
| Noun (plural)   | <b>Many/lots of</b> + nome plurale<br><b>Ex.</b> <i>There were many/lots of girls in the room.</i>                                  | <b>Few</b> + nome plurale in frase affermativa<br><b>Ex.</b> <i>Only few people attended the church service.</i><br><br><b>Many</b> + nome plurale in frase negativa<br><b>Ex.</b> <i>She hasn't got many friends.</i>                  |

### Little/a little

C'è una differenza tra **little** e **a little**.

**Little** significa "in quantità insufficiente, poco".

**Ex.** *I have little time to devote to sport (vorrei averne di più, ma devo accontentarmi).*

**A little** significa "in quantità adeguata, un poco".

**Ex.** *I always find a little time to devote to sport (riesco sempre a trovare il tempo).*

### Few/a few

Anche tra **few** e **a few** esiste una sottile differenza.

**Few** esprime un'idea di scarsità.

**Ex.** *Unfortunately I have few ideas for the project (ho poche idee).*

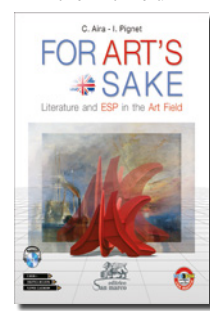
**A few** significa "un poco di, alcuni".

**Ex.** *I've thought about it and now I have a few ideas (ci ho pensato e adesso ho qualche idea).*

In alcune circostanze si preferisce non usare **little/few** perché potrebbe essere poco delicato; si preferisce utilizzare la forma negativa con **much/many**.

**Ex.** *He doesn't have many good qualities* è meno pesante di *He has got few good qualities*.





## Simple past

|                 | Affirmative form   | Negative form   | Interrogative form  |
|-----------------|--|---|---|
| Regular verbs   | Soggetto + forma base + <b>ed</b><br><br><b>Ex.</b> <i>I played.</i><br><i>She studied.</i><br><i>They went.</i> | Soggetto + <b>did</b> + <b>not (didn't)</b> + forma base<br><br><b>Ex.</b> <i>I did not play.</i><br><i>She didn't study.</i><br><i>They didn't go.</i> | <b>Did</b> + soggetto + forma base<br><br><b>Ex.</b> <i>Did you play?</i><br><i>Did she study?</i><br><i>Did they go?</i> |
| Irregular verbs | Soggetto + 2ª forma del paradigma irregolare<br><br><b>Ex.</b> <i>She went home.</i>                             | Soggetto + <b>did</b> + <b>not (didn't)</b> + forma base<br><br><b>Ex.</b> <i>She didn't go home.</i>   | <b>Did</b> + soggetto + forma base<br><br><b>Ex.</b> <i>Did she go home?</i>  |

### Uso:

- azione conclusa nel passato;
- con avverbi come *yesterday, last, ago*;
- azione svoltasi in un momento preciso del passato (*in 1995, last Monday, etc.*).

## Past continuous

|                    | Affirmative form   | Negative form  | Interrogative form   |
|--------------------|--|--|--|
| <i>I/he/she/it</i> | Soggetto + <b>was</b> + verbo in <b>-ing</b><br><br><b>Ex.</b> <i>I was writing.</i><br><i>He was writing.</i> | Soggetto + <b>was</b> + <b>not (wasn't)</b> + verbo in <b>-ing</b><br><br><b>Ex.</b> <i>I wasn't writing.</i><br><i>He wasn't writing.</i> | <b>Was</b> + soggetto + verbo in <b>-ing</b><br><br><b>Ex.</b> <i>Was I writing?</i><br><i>Was he writing?</i> |
| <i>You/we/they</i> | Soggetto + <b>were</b> + verbo in <b>-ing</b><br><br><b>Ex.</b> <i>You were writing.</i>                       | Soggetto + <b>were</b> + <b>not (weren't)</b> + verbo in <b>-ing</b><br><br><b>Ex.</b> <i>You weren't writing.</i>                         | <b>Were</b> + soggetto + verbo in <b>-ing</b><br><br><b>Ex.</b> <i>Were you writing?</i>                       |

Il **past continuous** descrive un'azione che si verifica contemporaneamente ad un'altra azione nel passato.

**Ex.** *He was having a shower when the telephone rang; I was reading while they were listening to the news.*

