



Answers

1. a) a little
2. b) few
3. d) a few
4. d) little
5. c) a little
6. a) a few
7. b) little
8. c) Few
9. c) a few
10. d) little
11. a) a few
12. b) few
13. d) a little
14. a) Few
15. b) a little
16. b) a few
17. c) little
18. a) a few
19. d) little
20. c) a few



Explanations

1. “a little” (a)

'A little' means 'some, enough' (positive). The context says 'enough for both of us', so the meaning is positive. Also, 'water' is uncountable, so we use 'a little'.

2. “few” (b)

'Few' means 'not many' (negative). The context says 'It's a bit sad', which signals a negative meaning. 'People' is countable, so we use 'few'.

3. “a few” (d)

'A few' means 'some' (positive). The context says 'She's not lonely at all', which signals a positive meaning. 'Friends' is countable, so we use 'a few'.

4. “little” (d)

'Little' means 'not much, almost none' (negative). The context says 'He can't read or write', which signals a very negative meaning. 'Education' is uncountable, so we use 'little'.

5. “a little” (c)

'A little' means 'some' (positive). The speaker is offering to meet, which means they have some available time. 'Time' is uncountable, so we use 'a little'.

6. “a few” (a)

'A few' means 'some' (positive). The speaker suggests sharing, indicating there are some apples. 'Apples' is countable, so we use 'a few'.

7. “little” (b)

'Little' means 'not much, almost none' (negative). The context says she has trouble talking to people, signalling a lack of confidence. 'Self-confidence' is uncountable, so we use 'little'.

8. “Few” (c)

'Few' means 'not many' (negative). The word 'unfortunately' signals a negative meaning. 'Children' is countable, so we use 'few'.

9. “a few” (c)

'A few' means 'some' (positive). The speaker is offering cakes, which means there are some to share. 'Cakes' is countable, so we use 'a few'.

10. “little” (d)

'Little' means 'not much, almost none' (negative). The context says they can't help many patients, signalling a shortage. 'Medicine' is uncountable, so we use 'little'.

11. “a few” (a)

'A few' means 'some' (positive). The speaker is happy to recommend, indicating there are some good options. 'Restaurants' is countable, so we use 'a few'.

12. “few” (b)

'Few' means 'not many' (positive in this context — having not many problems is a good thing). The word 'lucky' confirms that having few problems is fortunate.

13. “a little” (d)

'A little' means 'some, enough' (positive). The context says 'enough for coffee', confirming a positive meaning. 'Milk' is uncountable, so we use 'a little'.

14. “Few” (a)

'Few' means 'not many' (negative). The phrase 'almost unknown' signals that the number of visitors is disappointingly low. 'Tourists' is countable, so we use 'few'.

15. “a little” (b)

'A little' means 'some' (positive). The speaker says it's enough for basic tasks. We use 'a little' with uncountable nouns like languages (when referring to ability).

16. “a few” (b)

'A few' means 'some' (positive). The speaker offers to go, which means there are some tickets available. 'Tickets' is countable, so we use 'a few'.

17. “little” (c)

'Little' means 'not much' (negative). The context says it's usually grey and cloudy, signalling a lack of sunshine. 'Sunshine' is uncountable, so we use 'little'.

18. “a few” (a)

'A few' means 'some' (positive). The speaker is offering to lend, which means there are some books available. 'Books' is countable, so we use 'a few'.

19. “little” (d)

'Little' means 'not much, almost none' (negative). The context says 'The police have given up', which clearly signals that hope is almost gone. 'Hope' is uncountable, so we use 'little'.

20. “a few” (c)

'A few' means 'some' (positive). The speaker suggests grabbing a coffee, meaning there is enough time. 'Minutes' is countable, so we use 'a few'.