**Worksheet – *Few, A Few, Little, A Little* (Teacher Version)**

MAK, Pui Yi

The Hong Kong Institute of Education

1. The Student Union is preparing for the school anniversary celebration. They are facing some challenges. Listen to the committee members’ conversation at a weekly meeting. Fill in the blanks using ***few****,* ***a few****,* ***little*** or***a little***.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Daniel:  Crystal:  Daniel:  Matthew:  Crystal:  Matthew:  Crystal:  Daniel:  Crystal:  Daniel:  Matthew:  Daniel:    Crystal: | Here are 1. a few things to talk about in this meeting. The school anniversary is round the corner. But we have 2. a few difficulties ahead. There is 3. little time left for preparation so we may need to work at weekends.  Don’t worry. I’ll recruit 4. a few students who want to help. We’ll work this out.  Fabulous. Their help will definitely make a difference. How about the venue? Do we have enough rooms for the event?  Not really. There are just 5. few rooms available. Most classrooms are reserved for after-school classes. But we can try the school hall or the football pitch. If the weather is fine, you know, there is 6. a little rain this week, the pitch will be perfect for 7. a few game stalls.  What stalls are they?  For outdoor games like the Water Fight. In the Water fight, we splash water at one another. It is the highlight of the day. But there is a problem this year that we have 8. few buckets. Some are worn out so we need to buy more.  I see. But our budget is very tight. We just have 9. little money. I’m thinking of seeking for sponsorship or asking our students to bring their own buckets. We can save a lot and spend the money on some other items.  Like what?  We can make floating balloons! What we have to do is to fill the balloon with 10. a little special gas and it will flout. It’s not hard at all.  That sounds brilliant! I’m sure our students will love it!    So, we need to spend money on the balloons. Oh, I almost forget that we have to prepare some refreshment for our visitors.  I think 11. a little food will do. Last year, there was too much food and it turned out to be a nightmare because we put 12. little effort to plan the ceremony. So this year, we should be more careful. By the way, regarding the visitors, we just have 13. few guests this year. We’d better invite more to come. Crystal, can you help us with this?  No problem! I have 14. a little time today. |

1. Have you noticed anything special about the blanks you have filled in?   
   When do we use *few/ a few* and *little/ a little*? Put the nouns that follow ***few****/* ***a few*** and ***little****/* ***a little***into two groups. What can you find?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *few/ a few*  things  difficulties  students  rooms  game stalls  buckets  guests | *little/ a little*  time  rain  money  (special) gas  food  effort |

Findings:

We use ***few****/* ***a few***with \_\_\_\_\_countable\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nouns (e.g. *books*) and  
we use ***little****/* ***a little*** with \_\_\_\_uncountable\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nouns (e.g. *water*).

1. ***few/ little*** VS ***a few/ a little***

Refer to Part 1. In item 3 ‘*There is little time left*’, do you think the Student Union has enough time to work for the event? Why or why not? No. Clue: we may need to work at weekends.  
How about ‘a little time’ (Q.14)? Does Crystal have time for the task? How can you tell? Underline the clues. Yes. Clue: I have a little time today.

Now, complete the table below about the items that are mentioned in the conversation. Put a tick in the appropriate boxes.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Small amount/ enough | Not enough |
| e.g. a few students | ✓ |  |
| 1. \_\_\_a few\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ things | ✓ |  |
| 1. \_\_\_a few\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ difficulties | ✓ |  |
| 1. \_\_\_little\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ time |  | ✓ |
| 1. \_\_\_few\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rooms |  | ✓ |
| 1. \_\_\_a little\_\_\_\_\_\_ rain | ✓ |  |
| 1. \_\_\_a few\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ games stalls | ✓ |  |
| 1. \_\_\_few\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ buckets |  | ✓ |
| 1. \_\_\_little \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ money |  | ✓ |
| 1. \_\_\_a little\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ gas | ✓ |  |
| 1. \_\_\_a little\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ food | ✓ |  |
| 1. \_\_\_little\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ effort |  | ✓ |
| 1. \_\_\_\_few\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ guests |  | ✓ |
| 1. \_\_\_\_a little\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ time | ✓ |  |

\*Cross out the wrong options.

|  |
| --- |
| We use***few/ little*** when the amount is small and \*~~enough~~/ not enough, and  we use***a few/ a little*** when the amount is small but still \*satisfactory/ ~~unsatisfactory~~. |

1. Matching game. Work in pairs. Match the sentences.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. We have a little time left. | 1. We don’t have to rush. |
|  | 1. We must hurry up! |
| 1. I know little about the task. | 1. Can you tell me what to do? |
|  | 1. Let me have a try! |
| 1. We have a few pieces of colour paper. | 1. We may have to buy more of them. |
|  | 1. We can make some paper decorations with them. |
| 4. A few metres away is a grocery. | 1. It won’t take long to get there. |
|  | 1. It’s too close to here. |
| 5. Few students are available to help. | 1. I guess we should either work longer or change the plan. |
|  | 1. We will definitely make it happen! |

1. Your class is also joining the celebration and will set up a game stall. Work in pairs. Based on what you have in the classroom, decide what you can do and what to buy. Use *few/ a few/ little/ a little*.

e.g. We have a few paints. We can decorate the stall with them.

1. Write a proposal to the Principal about the activity your class will organize for the school anniversary. In your proposal, include the materials needed and a budget plan. You may use ***few****,* ***a few****,* ***little*** and ***a little***.