

Vidya Bhawan

Balika Vidyapith Lakhisarai

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Subject : English.

By : R.N.Singh

(Based on NCERT)

**Use of Few, a few, the few-**

Note carefully the use of the following

(1) few,.           (2) a few,.           (3) the few

Few = not many, hardly any, 'Few' has a negative meaning

Few persons can keep a secret

Few people are so hopeless as drunkards.

Few towns in India have public libraries.

Few works of reference are so valuable as the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Few men are free from faults.

Few men reach the age of one hundred years.

Few Parsees write Gujarati correctly.

A few = some. 'A few' has a positive meaning, and is opposed to none'.

A few words spoken in earnest will convince him.

A few Parsees write Gujarati correctly.

The few = not many, but all there are.

The few remarks that he made were very suggestive.

The sentence means-[The remarks that he made were not many; but all those remarks were very suggestive.]

The few friends he has are all very poor.

The few clothes they had were all tattered and torn.

## EXERCISE

Insert 'a few' or 'the few' whichever is suitable.

1 .....public libraries that we have are not well equipped.

2 .....days that are left to him he spends in solitude and meditation.

3 Many Hindus study Sanskrit, but only .....Parsees study Avesta.

4 .....,...days rest is all that is needed.

5 Have you got .....,... potatoes left ?

6 It is a question of spending ..... rupees.