

Phil

Hi, I'm Phil and I'm going to tell you the difference between **little** and **a little**.

Yes, they almost mean the same thing. No, we don't use them in the same way. They both refer to small quantities and we use them with uncountable nouns.

If we use '**little**' with no article, then it's usually negative – the small quantity is a problem. **There's little money left – we can't buy anything.** Or: **There's little time left – we need to start now.**

But if we use '**a little**' with the article, it's usually positive. It almost means 'at least we've got some'. **We've got a little money – let's spend it on a party!** **We've got a little time – let's have some tea.**

Remember it like this: If you've got **a little** money but **little** time, you could pay someone to help you. But if you've got **little** money and **a little** time, you should do it yourself!