

'Many' is used with a Noun and Verb in the *plural*.
'Many a' is used with a Noun and Verb in the *singular*.
Many a man = Many × one man = Many men.

1. **Many a boy** is absent today.
2. **Many boys** are absent today.

(5) '**Fewer**' is used as the Comparative of '**Few**'. It denotes *number*.
'**Less**' is very rarely used as the comparative of '**Little**'. It is an independent comparative. It has, in fact, no Positive degree. It generally denotes *quantity*.

1.09 As a general rule remember that—

- (1) The following determiners denote *quantity*. We use with them a Noun and Verb in the *singular* :
Much, Little, Less.
- (2) The following determiners denote *number*. We use with them a Noun and Verb in the *plural* :
Many, Few, Fewer.

Examples :

Much (quantity)

1. There is not *much* food in the house.
2. Did you have *much* difficulty in finding it ?
3. *Much* of what you say is true.
4. He never eats *much* breakfast.
5. Does your cow give *much* milk ?

Many (number)

1. I don't have *many* friends.
2. Were there *many* people at the meeting ?
3. *Many* people left early.
4. He does not know *many* things.
5. *Many* of them think so.

Fewer (number)

1. No *fewer* than twenty workers were absent.
2. There were *fewer* men than women.
3. Today I bought *fewer* eggs.

Less (quantity)

1. He had *less* difficulty with his work.
2. Don't think it has *less* importance.
3. I have *less* money than you.