



Use of little, a little and the little.

Little – not much (hardly any). Thus the adjective ‘little’ has a negative meaning.

Ex. He has little influence with his old followers.

There is little hope of his recovery. (Means he is not likely to recover)

A little – some though not much. ‘A little has a positive meaning’.

Ex. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

There is a little hope of his recovery. (Means he may possibly recover)

The little – not much, but all there is.

Ex. The little information he had was not quite reliable.

The little knowledge he had helped me a lot.

Use of some and any

To express quantity or degree some is used normally in affirmative sentences, any in negative or interrogative sentences.

Ex. I will buy some mangoes.

I will not buy any apples.

Have you bought any mangoes?

Some is used in questions which are really offers/requests.

Ex. Will you have some ice-cream? (Offer)

Could you lend me some money? (Request)