

# A modicum of knowledge?

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Consider this sentence:

- I only have a modicum of knowledge about economics.

This means that I only have a little knowledge. So “modicum” (= un mínimo de/una pizca/una cantidad mínima) here means that I am a layman (lego) in the context of economics: I am not an expert.

Some examples for you to contemplate:

- Mr. Putin, the Russian dictator, does not have a modicum of humanity (...no tiene una pizca de humanidad).
- I only have a modicum of respect for Mr. Biden (...un poco de respeto por...).
- A modicum of consensus about taxes in Spain is essential (es esencial tener un consenso mínimo sobre los impuestos en España).
- Am I making a modicum of sense?

Should you be preparing yourself for the Cambridge First, Proficiency or Advanced exams, you could say - in the speaking part, when starting to speak about a topic:

- “I only have a modicum of knowledge about this topic. In fact, I am a layman, so I am going to speculate”.

That would be a good introduction to the topic and you would get points for it.

So many mortals have a modicum of knowledge about many things: we cannot be

experts in everything. Such is life!