

READING COMPREHENSION

As many as grains of sand

Klara first picked up **one** shell, then put **another one** in her yellow bucket. She padded through the sand in her rubber boots. Klara looked at the shells on the beach very carefully. Her parents had promised her that at the end of the holiday she could take home a bucket full of shells. And only the most beautiful ones were to go into that bucket.

Klara added **two more shells**. There really were as many shells here as grains of sand! She glanced around to see whether her parents were still nearby. When she saw that the two of them were still walking behind her, she carried on searching, reassured. One particularly beautiful shell with thin blue stripes caught her eye. **It went into the bucket too. Another one**, which looked like a swirl of cream, was added to it. She took care that the shells did not break and that not even the smallest corner chipped off. She imagined how the shells would look in her sandpit. And how she would build a shell castle with them. Then she would always be on holiday, with her own little beach in the garden!

Klara found **three more** shells and put them in the yellow bucket. At the water's edge, washed by the sea, lay **one orange** shell and **two white ones** that glittered in the sun. They were to come home as well. As she walked on through the wet sand for a while, at every step you could hear the water splashing under her rubber boots and a soft gurgling in the sand. Klara loved those sounds and the feeling of the boots sinking slightly into the sand. Just as she decided that she had enough shells, she noticed one more tiny one with a pink dot. That one had to come too. Klara picked it up, rinsed it with a little water and **placed it carefully in the bucket**.

Then she set off back to her parents, who had not taken their eyes off her for a second. The three of them walked through the sand and looked out at the sea once more. Yes, they had had a wonderful holiday!

How many shells did Klara collect in her yellow bucket?
