

# 32

## quantity: much, many, few, little, enough

### Use *how many*

- to ask questions about quantity with countable nouns.  
*How many tigers are there in the world today?*

### Use *how much*

- to ask questions about mass with uncountable nouns.  
*How much water is there on Earth?*

### Use *not many*

- to make a negative statement about quantity of countables.  
*There aren't many tigers left in the world today.*

### Use *not much*

- to make a negative statement about mass of uncountables.  
*If we want to save the tiger, there isn't much time left.*

### Use *many* and *much*

- in positive statements in formal or written language.  
*Many people hunt wild animals for sport. Much damage has been caused by this kind of hunting.*

### Use *a few*

- to talk about a small number of countable nouns in a positive way.  
*We managed to see a few tigers in the distance.*

### Use *a little*

- to talk about a small amount of an uncountable noun in a positive way.  
*There is a little water left in this bottle.*

### Use *a lot (of)*, *lots (of)*

- to talk about a large number of countables or a large amount of an uncountable.  
*We saw a lot of / lots of animals close up and took a lot of / lots of photos.*  
*There was a lot of / lots of rain last month.*

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### Use *few*, *very few*, *only a few*

- to talk about countables in a negative way.  
*Unfortunately few conservationists believe that tigers in the wild have a future.*  
*Experts believe that within fifty years there will be very few remaining.*  
*Unfortunately, there are only a few biscuits left.*

### Use *little*, *very little*, *only a little*

- to talk about uncountables in a negative way.  
*There is little hope that tigers will survive, as they have very little space for their natural habitat.*  
*I'm afraid there is only a little water left.*

### Use *too many*

- with countables to talk about more things than are necessary or possible.  
*There are too many stars for scientists to count.*

### Use *too much*

- with uncountables to talk about a greater quantity than is necessary or possible.  
*Some plants are damaged by too much sunlight.*

### Use *enough (of)*

- for countables and uncountables when we say that the quantity or number is sufficient.  
*Have we got enough food?      Have we got enough?*  
*There are enough plates for everyone.      We've got enough (of them).*

### Use *not enough*

- for countables and uncountables when we say that the quantity or number is not sufficient.  
*There is not enough information about this problem, and there are not enough scientists working to try and find a solution.*

### Use *plenty of*

- for countables and uncountables when we say that the quantity or number is more than enough.  
*Don't worry, we have plenty of time.      I've got plenty of pens if you need one.*

1 Complete the question with *how many* or *how much*. Check the factual answers on page 208.

- a How many active volcanoes are there throughout the world?  
 b \_\_\_\_\_ oxygen is in the air?  
 c \_\_\_\_\_ fish are there in the sea?  
 d \_\_\_\_\_ water is there on Earth?  
 e \_\_\_\_\_ kinds of clouds are there?  
 f \_\_\_\_\_ teeth does an adult human have?  
 g \_\_\_\_\_ does the Earth weigh?  
 h \_\_\_\_\_ oil is used in the world every day?

2 Complete the sentence with *aren't many* or *isn't much*.

- a There isn't much rain in the Sahara Desert.  
 b There \_\_\_\_\_ giant pandas left in the world.  
 c There \_\_\_\_\_ snow in countries near the Equator.  
 d There \_\_\_\_\_ unexplored places left on Earth.  
 e There \_\_\_\_\_ people living in the Antarctic.  
 f There \_\_\_\_\_ light in the ocean below 200 metres.  
 g There \_\_\_\_\_ iron in the human body.  
 h There \_\_\_\_\_ mountains on Earth higher than 7,000 metres.

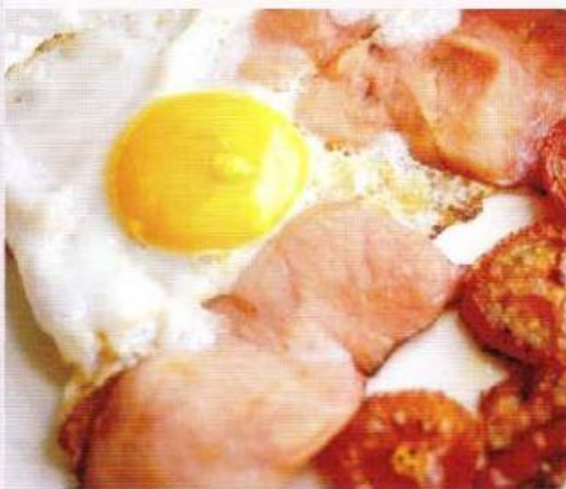
3 Complete each sentence so that it contains the word or words in capitals. Make any necessary changes.

- a Not many people have travelled deeper than 10,000 metres under the sea. A FEW  
Only a few people have travelled deeper than 10,000 metres under the sea.  
 b In fact there are only one or two ways of doing this. FEW  
 In fact there are \_\_\_\_\_ of doing this.  
 c Divers could not survive at such depths. NO  
 \_\_\_\_\_ could survive at such depths.  
 d Some people have descended this far in underwater vessels called bathyscaphes. A FEW  
 \_\_\_\_\_ have descended this far in underwater vessels called bathyscaphes.  
 e They cannot remain under water for many hours. A FEW  
 They can remain under water for \_\_\_\_\_.  
 f There are many problems involved with descending into deep water. LOT  
 \_\_\_\_\_ problems involved with descending into deep water.  
 g There is some light up to 200 metres, but at 10,000 it is completely dark. NONE  
 There is some light up to 200 metres, but at 10,000 \_\_\_\_\_.  
 h There are not many creatures that live at such a depth. FEW  
 \_\_\_\_\_ creatures that live at such a depth.

4 Complete the sentence with *few* or *little*.

- a Few people think that there are other planets in our solar system with human life just like our own.
- b In fact, there is \_\_\_\_\_ reason to believe that life of any kind exists on other planets.
- c There are a \_\_\_\_\_ indications that microbes may exist, or may have existed on Mars.
- d However, there is \_\_\_\_\_ real proof of this.
- e There are a \_\_\_\_\_ traces of methane in the Martian atmosphere, and some scientists believe that this could have a biological origin.
- f Unfortunately, there is \_\_\_\_\_ agreement among scientists about this.
- g Analysis of the Martian soil suggests that water exists on Mars, and there are a \_\_\_\_\_ areas where scientists believe ice forms and melts.
- h Other scientists argue that there is \_\_\_\_\_ chance of finding any life at all on Mars.

5 Complete the text with *many*, *much*, *few*, *lots*, *none* and *little*.



a Many people nowadays try to follow a healthy diet, although not b \_\_\_\_\_ experts agree about what this is. In fact c \_\_\_\_\_ of people assume that 'diet' is something connected with losing weight. Diet simply refers to the kind of food and how d \_\_\_\_\_ of it we eat. There are very e \_\_\_\_\_ foods that we can describe as completely 'unhealthy', and not f \_\_\_\_\_ foods have zero nutritional value. However, if you eat g \_\_\_\_\_ of chocolate and fried food and take h \_\_\_\_\_ exercise, then your diet would probably be described as 'unhealthy'. i \_\_\_\_\_ experts recommend that we all eat j \_\_\_\_\_ of fruit and vegetables, and eat very k \_\_\_\_\_ fatty food.

People are often surprised when they discover how l \_\_\_\_\_ fat there is in popular fast foods such as burgers and pizzas, or how m \_\_\_\_\_ calories there are in soft drinks. Unfortunately n \_\_\_\_\_ of us can resist this kind of food, and there are not o \_\_\_\_\_ people who are prepared to give up chocolate or chips. There are p \_\_\_\_\_ easy answers to the question 'what is a healthy diet?'. However, if we eat q \_\_\_\_\_ of different kinds of food, drink r \_\_\_\_\_ of water, and make sure we take s \_\_\_\_\_ of exercise, then we will be going in the right direction. After all, t \_\_\_\_\_ of us are perfect!