

## Expressions of quantity

There are many phrases used to express quantities and amounts in English. The expressions we use will often depend on whether the noun is countable or uncountable, and whether the sentence is negative or positive.

**some , any, much, many, (a) few, (a) little, a lot of / lots of, plenty of**

- **Some** is used in positive sentences with both countable and uncountable nouns. Examples are:

**Countable:** **Some students** play here at the weekend.

**Uncountable:** There is **some smoke** is coming from that house.

→ **Some** is also used in questions ( offer or request ) for polite questions.

Would you like **some more coffee**? ( **offer** )

Would you lend me **some money**? ( **request** )

- **Any** can be used in negative sentences with both countable and uncountable nouns:

**Countable:** There are not **any animals** in the park.

**Uncountable:** There is not **any water** in the sink.

→ "**Any**" is also used in questions to ask if someone has something.

**Countable:** Do you have **any friends** in Iraq?

**Uncountable:** Is there **any sugar** left?

- **Much** is used with **uncountable** nouns.

She has **much money**.

There is **much butter** in the refrigerator.

- **Many** is used with **countable** nouns:

She has **many cats**.

**Many days** passed before they came.

- **(A) few** is used with **countable** nouns.

**A few** friends visited me. It means **some** friends visited me.

**Few** friends visited me. It means **hardly any** friends visited me.

- **(A) little** is used with **uncountable** nouns.

I need **a little** money. It means that I need **some** money.

I need **little** money. It means that I need **hardly any** money.

- **A lot of / lots of** are used with **countable** and **uncountable** nouns. They have the same meaning. **A lot of** is formal. **Lots of** is informal.

**Countable:** **A lot of** people went to the game.

**Lots of** people went to the game.

**Uncountable:** We have **a lot of** time.

We have **lots of** time.

- **Plenty of** is used with **countable** and uncountable nouns. It means enough and more.

**Countable:** The children have **plenty of** time.

**Uncountable:** The children have **plenty of** toys.

## Exercise 1

### A. Choose the right option.

- Jennifer is always at home. She doesn't go out.....  
a. enough    b. many    c. too many
- I don't like the weather in London. There is..... rain.  
a. too many    b. much    c. too much
- We couldn't sit anywhere at the concert. There were ..... people.  
a. many    b. too many    c. too much
- I haven't got .....time to finish my test.  
a. too many    b. too much    c. enough
- You drank .....coffee. That's why you feel sick.  
a. too much    b. many    c. enough
- I made..... mistakes with her. That's why she left me.  
a. enough    b. too much    c. too many
- If you don't eat \_\_\_\_\_ fruit, you can get ill.  
a. many    b. much    c. enough
- Claire is tall..... to be a fashion model.  
a. too much    b. enough    c. too many
- Oh no! You put ..... milk in the pancakes dough.  
a. enough    b. too much    c. too many
- Why did you buy so..... bottles of milk?  
a. many    b. much    c. enough

## Exercise 2

Fill in: **much, many, a little, little, a few, few.**

1. How ..... do we have to read this week? **much**
2. There aren't very ..... books in the library. **many**
3. A..... love makes things better. **A little**
4. It has rained very..... this summer. **much**
5. John had.....money so he couldn't even buy a bus ticket. **little**
6. I know .... Spanish so I am going to have a problem there. **little.**
- 7..... people can live without money. We simply need it. **Few**
8. There are .....leftovers for you in the refrigerator. a **few**

## Exercise 3

**Correct the mistakes.**

1. How many free time do you have?
2. There isn't a lot of snow in the streets.
3. The doctor gave me any medicine for my cough.
4. There are a little students in the class.
5. I wanted to buy any fresh eggs, but there weren't some in the store.
6. He never gives his kids few money.
7. There is many juice in the glass.
8. Please give me any more coffee.
9. He never makes much mistakes in spelling.
10. There aren't some good seats left for the play tonight.