

## a lot   much   many



**a lot of money**  
**much money**

**much** + *uncountable noun* (► Unit 61):  
**much money**      **much food**  
**much time**      **much coffee**



**a lot of books**  
**many books**

**many** + *plural noun*:  
**many books**      **many shops**  
**many people**      **many questions**

**a lot of** + *uncountable or plural noun*:  
**a lot of food**      **a lot of coffee**

**a lot of people**      **a lot of shops**

■ **much/many** are more usual in *questions* and *negative sentences*:

- Do you drink **much coffee**?
- **How much money** have you got?
- She hasn't got **much money**.
- A: Have you got any **money**?
- B: I've got some but **not much**.
- Diana spoke to me but she didn't say **much**.

- Do you know **many people**?
- **How many photographs** did you take?
- He hasn't got **many friends**.
- A: Did you take any **photographs**?
- B: I took some but **not many**.

■ **a lot (of)** is more usual in *positive sentences*:

- I **drink a lot of** coffee.
- They **haven't** got **much** money but they've got **a lot of** friends.
- There **aren't** **many** hotels in the town but there **are a lot of** restaurants.

You can use **a lot** without a noun. Compare:

- He ate **a lot of food**. (**a lot of** + *noun*)
- but He ate **a lot**. (*not* 'a lot of')

Note that we say:

- There **is** a lot of **food/money/coffee** etc. (*singular verb*)
- but There **are** a lot of **trees/shops/people** etc. (*plural verb*)
- A lot of **people speak** English. (*not* 'A lot of people speaks')


■ Sometimes **much** or **a lot** = *often*:

- 'Do you watch TV **much**?' 'No, **not much**.' (= *not often*)
- We like films, so we go to the cinema **a lot**.



## Exercises


77.1 Answer the questions with **I've got some but not much/many.**

- 
- 1 Have you got any money?
  - 2 Have you got any coffee?
  - 3 Have you got any books?
  - 4 Have you got any cigarettes?
  - 5 Have you got any cheese?
  - 6 Have you got any friends?

*I've got some but not much.*

I've got some but .....

77.2 Write questions with **How much ... ?** or **How many ... ?**

- 
- 1 I took some photographs.
  - 2 I bought some stamps.
  - 3 I lost some money.
  - 4 I drank some water.
  - 5 I made some mistakes.
  - 6 I wrote some letters.
  - 7 I bought some food.
  - 8 I invited some people.

*How many photographs did you take?*

How ..... did you buy?

77.3 Put in **a lot / a lot of / much / many.**

- 1 Do you drink ..... *much* ..... tea?
- 2 I like reading. I've got ..... *a lot of* ..... books.
- 3 There isn't ..... milk in the fridge.
- 4 It costs ..... money to travel round the world.
- 5 Please be quick! I haven't got ..... time.
- 6 How ..... foreign languages can you speak?
- 7 They didn't ask me ..... questions.
- 8 There was ..... food at the party but I didn't eat .....
- 9 We saw ..... interesting things in the museum.
- 10 George knows ..... about economics.
- 11 We went on a cheap holiday. It didn't cost .....
- 12 'Did you enjoy the party?' 'No, not .....
- 13 Most of the town is modern - there aren't ..... old buildings.
- 14 Most people in the town have jobs - there isn't ..... unemployment.

77.4 Write the questions and answers. Use **much** and **a lot.**

- 1 (go to the cinema)
- 2 (watch TV)
- 3 (go swimming)
- 4 (play tennis)
- 5 (travel)
- 6 (use the phone)

*Do you go to the cinema much?*

*Do you watch TV much?*

..... go swimming

Do .....

.....

.....

No, *not much.*

Yes, *a lot.*

No, .....

Yes, .....

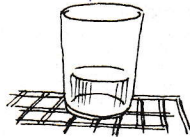
Yes, .....

No, .....



## (a) little (a) few

a little water



(a) little + *uncountable noun*:

(a) little water      (a) little money  
(a) little time      (a) little soup

**a little** = some but not much:

- She didn't eat anything but she drank **a little water**.
- I speak **a little Spanish**. (= some Spanish but not much)
- A: Can you speak **Spanish**?  
B: **A little**.

~~✗~~**little** (*without a*) = nearly no ... or nearly nothing:

- There was **little food** in the fridge. It was nearly empty.

You can say **very little**:

- She's very thin because she eats **very little**. (= nearly nothing)

**little and a little**:

**a little** is a *positive* idea:

- They have **a little money** so they're not poor. (= some but not much money)

~~✗~~**little** is a *negative* idea:

- They have **little money**. They are very poor. (= nearly no money)



a few books



(a) few + *plural noun*:

(a) few books      (a) few questions  
(a) few people      (a) few days

**a few** = some but not many:

- Last night I wrote **a few letters**.
- We're going away for **a few days**.
- I speak **a few words** of Spanish.
- A: Have you got any **cigarettes**?  
B: **A few**. Do you want one?

~~✗~~**few** (*without a*) = nearly no ...:

- There were **few** people in the park. It was nearly empty.

You can say **very few**:

- Her English is very good. She makes **very few mistakes**.

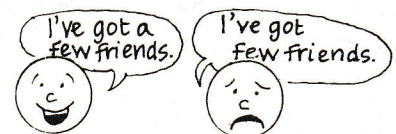
**few and a few**:

**a few** is a *positive* idea:

- I've got **a few friends**, so I'm not lonely. (= some but not many friends)

~~✗~~**few** is a *negative* idea:

- I'm sad and lonely. I've got **few friends**. (= nearly no friends)





## Exercises

### 78.1 Answer the questions with **a little** or **a few**.

- |                             |                       |                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| 1 Have you got any money?   | <u>A little</u> ..... | 5 Have we got any petrol?   | ..... |
| 2 Have you got any stamps?  | .....                 | 6 Does he speak English?    | ..... |
| 3 Do you want any sugar?    | .....                 | 7 Do you know many people?  | ..... |
| 4 Did he ask any questions? | .....                 | 8 Would you like some soup? | ..... |

### 78.2 Put in **a little** or **a few** + one of these words:

air   chairs   days   friends   houses   ~~letters~~   milk   Russian  
times

- Yesterday evening I wrote a few letters..... to my family and friends.
- Can I have ..... in my coffee, please?
- 'When did John go away?' '..... ago.'
- 'Do you speak any foreign languages?' 'Yes, Italian and .....
- 'Are you going out alone?' 'No, I'm going with .....
- 'Have you ever been to Rome?' 'Oh, yes. ....'
- I live in a very small village. There is a church, a shop and .....  
- that's all.
- I'm going out for a walk. I need ..... fresh .....
- There wasn't much furniture in the room - just a table and .....

### 78.3 Complete the sentences. Use **very little** / **very few** + one of these words:

coffee   hotels   ~~mistakes~~   rain   tables   time

- Her English is very good. She makes very few mistakes.....
- I drink ..... I don't like it.
- In summer the weather is very dry. There is .....
- It's difficult to find a place to stay in this town. There are .....
- We must hurry. We've got .....
- It's a small restaurant. There are .....

### 78.4 Put in **little** or **a little** / **few** or **a few**.

- There was little..... food in the fridge. It was nearly empty.
- 'When did you see Sarah?' '..... days ago.'
- He's very lazy. He does ..... work.
- They're not rich but they've got ..... money - enough to live.
- Last night I went to a restaurant with ..... friends.
- The TV service is not very good. There are ..... good programmes.
- I can't decide now - I need ..... time to think about it.
- Nearly everybody has a job. There is ..... unemployment.
- He's not well-known. .... people have heard of him.