

QUANTIFIERS, TOO, NOT ENOUGH

Main theme addressed	In this lesson, you will learn the meaning and the use of a series of quantifiers including "too" and "not enough".
Key Goals	<p>Here is an outline of what you will learn today:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What the different quantifiers mean. 2. How to choose between quantifiers which are similar in meaning, but are still not interchangeable. 3. How to form sentences containing quantifiers yourself.

1. What the different quantifiers mean

In this lesson, we want to concentrate on the following quantifiers: **too**, **too much**, **too many** on the one hand and **a little** and **a few** on the other. To make things more interesting, we will also add **enough** because it fits nicely into the series. So, let us look at some general definitions and examples first. They will help us to get an idea of what these little words mean and which of them are, in fact, quite similar in meaning.

- **Too / too much / too many**

These three quantifiers mean that there is more than is good of something.

Examples:

I really can't concentrate. I'm too tired.

I also can't concentrate. There's too much noise!

We won't finish the work today. There are still too many things to do.

- **A little / a few**

These two quantifiers mean that the quantity of something is small.

Examples:

I know the answer, but I need a little time to think about how to say it.

I have a few questions to ask you, if that's ok.

- **Enough**

This quantifier means that the amount of something is the one necessary.

Examples:

No need to worry, I've got **enough** time to finish all the exercises.

Do you eat **enough** vegetables?

Are you tired **enough** to fall asleep?

Let's see if you can already distinguish between the quantifiers meaning "there is more that is good" (too, too much, too many), "there is a small quantity" (a little, a few), and

"there's the necessary amount" (enough) of something. To find out or just to practice, have a look at the first exercise:

Exercise:

Write the quantifier that contributes the right meaning.

1. I see that your cup is empty. Would you like _____ more coffee?
(too much / a little / enough)
2. I don't feel very well. I've got _____ problems – I don't know where to start!
(too many / a few / enough)
3. I can't find my homework! There's _____ paper on my desk.
(too much / a little / enough)
4. I don't speak Danish, but I know _____ words – like the numbers from 1-10. (too many / a few / enough)
5. We can go sailing, Tom! Finally, there's _____ wind for it! (too much / a little / enough)

2. How to choose between quantifiers which are similar in meaning, but are still not interchangeable.

As you have noticed, some quantifiers share the same meaning, but they are used with different words.

In fact, we can subdivide these words into **uncountable nouns** (coffee, time, wind), **countable nouns** (problems, questions, things) and **adjectives** (tired).

Have a look at the following table and the examples below it.

- **Too + adjective**

too tired, too hungry, too hot, too slow

- **Too much + uncountable noun**

too much noise, too much light, too much water

- **Too many + countable noun**

too many things, too many people, too many books

- **A little + uncountable noun**

a little time, a little help, a little sleep

- **A few + countable noun**

a few questions, a few friends, a few bananas

- **Enough + uncountable noun**

enough time, enough money, enough water

- **Enough + countable noun**

enough vegetables, enough hobbies, enough pens

- **Adjective + enough**

tired enough, clever enough, old enough

* Use enough **before** a noun (uncountable or countable), but **after** an adjective!



Examples:

I won't have an ice-cream because it's **too** cold today.

Don't eat **too much** chocolate. It's not good for your teeth!

And don't eat **too many** crisps either. They aren't healthy!

He is always busy, but on Sundays, he usually has **a little** time for his friends.

If he falls ill, there are **a few** people who can help him out.

Make sure you drink **enough** water.

Is your body getting **enough** vitamins to stay healthy?

I must have put on weight. This dress isn't big **enough!**

The following exercise allows you to practice the choice of the right quantifier depending on the context.

Exercise:

Look at the sentences below. Fill the gap by writing the correct word from the list below the sentence. Watch out for the context – it helps you decide!

1. I eat _____ fat. - **too / too much / too many**
2. I work _____ hours. - **too / too much / too many**
3. I drink _____ alcohol. - **too / a little / a few**
4. I'm _____ tired to drive home. - **too / too much / too many**
5. I can be with you in _____ minutes. - **a little / a few / enough**
6. Are you old _____ to drive a car? - **a little / a few / enough**
7. I've got _____ favourite films. - **too / a little / a few**
8. Is there _____ snow to go skiing? - **too / too many / enough**

3. How to form sentences containing quantifiers yourself.

Now you are ready to have a go at forming sentences containing quantifiers yourself.

Have a look at the following exercises. Enjoy!

Exercise:

Fill in the sentence with the words listed below.

too, too much, enough, a little, enough

1. Would you like _____ more tea?
2. I think you are driving _____ fast; slow down.
3. Most children watch _____ television.
4. I think summer holidays are not long _____.
5. This cappuccino is not hot _____.

Exercise:

Read the questions. Write an answer using the prompts together with one of the quantifiers you've learned in this lesson.

1. Did you finish your homework yesterday? – (no / I / have / time)

_____.

2. Can I have a glass of wine, please? – (no / you / young / to drink / alcohol)

_____.

3. Shall we go swimming later? – (no / the water / not be / warm)

_____.

4. Does she speak German? – (not really / she / only / know / words)

_____.

5. Can you help me? – (of course / I / be / with / you / in / minutes)

_____.

Learn More:

<https://agendaweb.org/grammar/quantifiers-quantity-exercises.html>

<https://www.grammarbank.com/quantifiers-exercises.html>

<https://www.engvid.com/english-grammar-much-many-a-lot-of-quantifiers/>