

Much & Many...

countable & uncountable nouns



Grammar: Determiners (much, many, some, etc)

These determiners are used to talk about quantity: *some, any, a little, a few, much, many, a lot of*.

We use *some* and *any* before uncountable nouns or plural countable nouns to mean 'a number of' or 'an amount of'.

- *Some* is used in affirmative sentences.
I've got some apples. There's some tea on the table.
- *Any* is used in negative sentences and in questions.
Did the supermarket have any chicken?
We haven't got any carrots.
Have you got any bananas?
There isn't any meat in the fridge.
- *Some* can also be used in questions, but only if they are offers or requests.
Would you like some cake?
Can I have some cake?

We use *a little* and *a few* to refer to small amounts.

- We use *a little* with uncountable nouns.
We only need a little milk for the cake.
- We use *a few* with plural countable nouns.
Meals are healthier if you add a few vegetables.

Much and *many* are used in negative sentences and questions to talk about larger quantities.

- We use *much* with uncountable nouns.
Have you got much rice?
There isn't much coffee.
- We use *many* with plural countable nouns.
Are there many glasses in the cupboard? – Yes, but there aren't many plates.

We generally use *a lot of* to talk about larger quantities in affirmative sentences, for both uncountable and plural countable nouns. It is also possible to use *a lot of* in negatives and in questions.

Ellie eats a lot of fruit and vegetables.
A lot of people like Italian food.



Grammar: Determiners (much, many, some, etc)

- To count uncountable nouns, or to refer to a specific amount of something, we can use phrases like *a piece of*, *a bit of*, *a slice of*, etc. Here are some examples:

a bar of chocolate
a bit of cheese
a blob of paint
a bottle of cola
a can of lemonade
a carton of milk
a cup of coffee

a drop of water
a glass of orange juice
a gram of sugar
a handful of rice
a jar of jam
a kilo of rice
a loaf of bread

a litre of water
a lump of sugar
a piece of furniture
a pile of rubbish
a pool of blood
a portion of chicken
a sheet of paper

a slice of cake
a spoonful of salt
a spot of blood
a touch of glamour
a tube of toothpaste

- Some nouns can be both countable and uncountable. Here are examples:

Noun	Example (countable)	Example (uncountable)
<i>chicken</i>	<i>He sat there and ate a whole chicken.</i>	<i>I'll have some chicken and chips, please.</i>
<i>coffee</i>	<i>I'd love a coffee now. (= a cup)</i>	<i>Is there any coffee left?</i>
<i>experience</i>	<i>Failing an exam was a new experience for me.</i>	<i>Have you had any previous experience?</i>
<i>fruit</i>	<i>A kumquat is an exotic fruit.</i>	<i>You should eat fruit every day.</i>
<i>hair</i>	<i>The cat has left white hairs all over the sofa.</i>	<i>Get your hair cut – it's getting too long.</i>
<i>juice</i>	<i>I'd like an orange juice, please. (= a glass)</i>	<i>There's some apple juice in the fridge.</i>
<i>noise</i>	<i>I heard a noise outside the window.</i>	<i>Stop making so much noise!</i>



Grammar: Exercises



Are these nouns countable or uncountable? Circle the correct answer

- | | | |
|-----|-------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | Rice | countable / uncountable |
| 2. | Chair | countable / uncountable |
| 3. | News | countable / uncountable |
| 4. | Job | countable / uncountable |
| 5. | Trip | countable / uncountable |
| 6. | Pasta | countable / uncountable |
| 7. | Information | countable / uncountable |
| 8. | Homework | countable / uncountable |
| 9. | Essay | countable / uncountable |
| 10. | Luggage | countable / uncountable |
| 11. | Advice | countable / uncountable |
| 12. | Cup | countable / uncountable |
| 13. | Car | countable / uncountable |
| 14. | Research | countable / uncountable |
| 15. | University | countable / uncountable |
| 16. | Progress | countable / uncountable |
| 17. | Help | countable / uncountable |
| 18. | Equipment | countable / uncountable |
| 19. | Peace | countable / uncountable |
| 20. | City | countable / uncountable |

Choose the correct sentence in each pair.

- a I've got a lot of milk.
b I've got much milk.
- a There isn't many coffee left.
b There isn't much coffee left.
- a I'm only buying a little grapes.
b I'm only buying a few grapes.
- a We haven't got any ice cream, I'm afraid.
b We haven't got some ice cream, I'm afraid.
- a Can I have any tea?
b Can I have some tea?
- a Do you want much bottles of water?
b Do you want many bottles of water?
- a People eat much junk food these days.
b People eat a lot of junk food these days.
- a Are there any onions in the cupboard?
b Are there some onions in the cupboard?

Complete the sentences with the words below.
There is one word that you do not need.

■ much ■ little ■ any ■ some ■ a lot of ■ many ■ few

- The bus was late because there was traffic.
- Chloe doesn't take clothes on holiday.
- There are only a sandwiches here. We need more for the picnic.
- If you like sweet tea, you should only add a sugar, as it's bad for your teeth.
- Have you got information about places to visit around here?
- There isn't water left – only half a bottle.

Grammar: Exercises

Complete the conversation with the words and phrases from the box.

a little a lot not much ~~many~~ much many not many

- JEZ Let's get something to eat. Are there (0) *many*..... restaurants here?
- ALI Yes, there are quite (1), but there's (2) variety. What kinds of food do you like?
- JEZ Well, I eat too (3) junk food so I'd prefer something different. Are there any British restaurants here?
- ALI Yes, but (4) There are only two, I think, and they're expensive. Do you eat much Indian food?
- JEZ Well, I have tried (5) Indian food before, but I'm not very keen on it – sorry, Ali. I know you love it. What about Chinese?
- ALI Oh, there are so (6) Chinese restaurants here that everyone gets bored with Chinese food! I know – we both like Italian. Let's go to Giovanni's.



Answers:

1.	Rice	uncountable
2.	Chair	countable
3.	News	uncountable
4.	Job	countable
5.	Trip	countable
6.	Pasta	uncountable
7.	Information	uncountable
8.	Homework	uncountable
9.	Essay	countable
10.	Luggage	uncountable
11.	Advice	uncountable
12.	Cup	countable
13.	Car	countable
14.	Research	uncountable
15.	University	countable
16.	Progress	uncountable
17.	Help	uncountable
18.	Equipment	uncountable
19.	Peace	uncountable
20.	City	countable

1 Choose the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a I've got a lot of milk.
b I've got much milk.
- 2 a There isn't many coffee left.
b There isn't much coffee left.
- 3 a I'm only buying a little grapes.
 b I'm only buying a few grapes.
- 4 a We haven't got any ice cream, I'm afraid.
b We haven't got some ice cream, I'm afraid.
- 5 a Can I have any tea?
 b Can I have some tea?
- 6 a Do you want much bottles of water?
 b Do you want many bottles of water?
- 7 a People eat much junk food these days.
 b People eat a lot of junk food these days.
- 8 a Are there any onions in the cupboard?
b Are there some onions in the cupboard?



Answers:

Complete the sentences with the words below.
There is one word that you do not need.

■ much ■ little ■ any ■ some ■ a lot of ■ many ■ few

- 1 The bus was late because there was **A lot of** traffic.
- 2 Chloe doesn't take **many** clothes on holiday.
- 3 There are only a **few** sandwiches here. We need more for the picnic.
- 4 If you like sweet tea, you should only add a **little** sugar, as it's bad for your teeth.
- 5 Have you got **any** information about places to visit around here?
- 6 There isn't **much** water left – only half a bottle.



| Complete the conversation with the words and phrases from the box.

a little a lot not much ~~many~~ much many not many

- JEZ Let's get something to eat. Are there (0) ~~many~~..... restaurants here?
- ALI Yes, there are quite (1) **A lot**....., but there's (2) **Not much** variety. What kinds of food do you like?
- JEZ Well, I eat too (3) **much**..... junk food so I'd prefer something different. Are there any British restaurants here?
- ALI Yes, but (4) **Not many**..... There are only two, I think, and they're expensive. Do you eat much Indian food?
- JEZ Well, I have tried (5) **A little**..... Indian food before, but I'm not very keen on it – sorry, Ali. I know you love it. What about Chinese?
- ALI Oh, there are so (6) **many**..... Chinese restaurants here that everyone gets bored with Chinese food! I know – we both like Italian. Let's go to Giovanni's.

