

Nobody knows exactly how (a) much/many words there are in total in the English language but there are (b) a lot/a lot of. One reason why there are so (c) many/much is that English takes words from (d) much/many other languages. Look at the words for food in exercise 2a for example. There may be (e) a few/a little words there that come from your language. (f) Some/Any of the words come from South America – potato, tomato and chocolate. There aren't (g) any/many words from Chinese in the English language, but ketchup is one of them. Originally, ketchup was the name for a type of fish sauce in China. Teenagers in Britain don't eat (h) many/much fish sauce but they do eat (i) lots/lots of hamburgers. There is (j) some/any confusion about the origin of the word

hamburger but (k) a lot of/much people think that it comes from German. Because Britain and France are neighbours it is normal that there are (l) a few/a lot of French words in English – hundreds in fact. Biscuit is just one example. On the other hand, (m) a lot of/many fruit travels a long way to get to Britain. That explains why the word banana comes from an African language. There are also (n) a few/a little words from Turkish, like yoghurt. And, finally, if you ask for (o) a few/a little sugar in your coffee, you're using two Arabic words. Just by being in an English kitchen you can travel to (p) much/many countries!

