

How much / how many

a) Study these notes:

1. **Uncountable** nouns are **always singular**.

You can use **some** before an uncountable noun, but **not** a number:
**one water, *two pollutions,...*

We use **how much** to ask about the **amount** of something **uncountable**: some food, some water, some milk, some salt, some sugar, some pollution, some information, some love,...

BE CAREFUL: "money" is uncountable. You can count dollars, pounds, euros, coins or banknotes... but not "money".

Look at this sentence:

There is very little money here.

Is it correct? yes no

2. **Countable** nouns can be **singular or plural**.

We use **how many** to ask about the **quantity** of something **countable**: some tables, some sandwiches, some children, some litres, some kilos,...

BE CAREFUL: "people" is always plural in English. In Spanish it has two meanings: "personas" (countable, plural) and "gente" (uncountable, singular).

Look at this sentence:

There are twenty-two people on the bus.

Is it correct? yes no

3. To measure and count **uncountable** things we can use **units**:

How much wine is there? There is **not much** wine.

How many litres of wine are there? There are two litres.

4. Some things, especially food, can be countable or uncountable:

There **are** a lot of tomatoes in that bag. → countable

How many tomatoes are there in the bag?

There are three.

There **is** a lot of tomato in these spaghetti. → uncountable

How much tomato is there in the spaghetti?

There is a lot (of tomato). / There are 300 grams.

5. Some words are invariable – they have one form only for the singular and the plural:

one sheep = una oveja

two sheep = dos ovejas

Some words can be invariable sometimes:

one fish = un pez

two fish / two fishes = dos peces

some fish = algunos peces (countable)

some fish = algo de pescado (uncountable)

b) Select the correct option:

1. _____ subjects do you study at school?
2. _____ petrol does your car use?
3. _____ lettuce _____ there in the fridge?
4. _____ lettuces _____ there in that truck?
5. _____ sheep _____ there in that field?
6. _____ bread _____ there in the breadbox?
7. _____ exercises do we have to do for homework?
8. _____ exercise do you do to keep fit?
9. _____ air _____ there in a hot-air balloon?
10. _____ fish _____ there for dinner?
11. _____ fish _____ there in that aquarium?
12. _____ children _____ playing in the garden?
13. _____ goals has the local team scored?
14. _____ time do we have to do the school project?
15. _____ days can we work on this project?
16. _____ times do we have to repeat this exercise?
17. _____ words are there in this sentence?
18. _____ is this book, please?
19. _____ books _____ there on this shelf?
20. _____ students _____ there in your class?