



Presentation

Use *much, many, lots, a lot of, a little* and *a few* to talk about quantity.

much / many

You usually use *much / many* in questions and negative statements. Use *much* with uncountable nouns and *many* with plural countable nouns:

I haven't got much time. I don't have many friends.

How much money do you earn? How many different sports do you play?

Don't use *much* in speech in affirmative statements. You normally use *a lot / lots*:

Say I've got a lot of free time this weekend. (don't say I've got much free time this weekend.)

You can use *many* in affirmative statements, but it can seem very formal; *a lot / lots* is more common.

I've got a lot of / many things to do today.

not much / not many

Use *not much* and *not many* to talk about small quantities.

Use *not much* with uncountable nouns:

I haven't got much work to do this weekend.

Use *not many* with plural countable nouns:

I don't exercise many hours a week.

You can also use *not much* and *not many* in short answers:

How many hours a week do you exercise? Not many.

a lot of / lots of

Use *lots of* or *a lot of* to talk about large quantities with uncountable nouns and plural countable nouns:

I spend a lot of money on food. I have lots of meetings.

There is no difference in meaning or use between *lots of* and *a lot of*:

I spend a lot of money on food. = I spend lots of money on food.

a little / a few

Use *a little* and *a few* to talk about small quantities.

Use *a little* with uncountable nouns: *I have a little time.*

Use *a few* with plural countable nouns: *I play a few sports.*

some

You generally use *some* in:

- affirmative sentences: *There are some CDs on the table.*
- in requests and offers when you are referring to something specific: *Can I have some cake? / Would you like some cake? (= A piece of the cake I have here on the plate and I am offering to you.)*

any

You generally use *any* in:

- negative sentences and questions: *There isn't any coffee in the machine. Is there any coffee?*

Exercises

1 Choose the correct words.

- A: Are you spending ¹lot / lots of time at the gym these days?
 B: No, not ²much / many. What about you?
 A: No, I don't have ³some / any spare time at the moment.
 B: I have the same problem. A ⁴little / few of my friends find time to go out after work, but I find there aren't any hours left for anything else.
 A: How ⁵much / many hours do you work a week?
 B: A ⁶lot / lots! Last week I worked over one hundred hours.
 A: Wow! Do you get ⁷some / any holidays?
 B: I have a ⁸some / any days off next week, actually.

2 Correct the mistake in lines 1–7. Underline the mistake and write the correction.

- 1 A survey of gyms and fitness centres suggests that people spend a lots of ^{a lot / lots of}
 2 their spare time at the gym, but not any people are actually losing any weight.
 3 In answer to the question 'How many weight have you lost since joining the
 4 gym?' only 23% of the members said they were fitter. A little people (4%) even
 5 said they had gained a few weight. But gyms needn't worry about these results.
 6 When asked the question 'Will you join again next year?' not any people
 7 answered 'no', but most people answered, 'yes'. It's clear that much
 members are interested in the extra benefits, e.g. the sauna.

3 Choose the correct words. In two sentences both answers are possible.

- 1 A: How much / many milk do you like in your tea?
 B: I don't want any / some, thank you. I'd like it black, please.
 2 Lot / Lots of students study online nowadays.
 3 I usually write emails, but I write any / some letters to the older members of my family.
 4 Can I have much / a little ice cream, please? It looks delicious!
 5 Would you like a little / few milk?
 6 Sorry, but we don't have much / many information about train times.
 7 You don't earn much / little money as a teacher!
 8 There isn't much bread left. Can you buy some / any?
 9 The post office is only a little / a few metres from the cinema.
 10 In my opinion, not many / any children learn to be polite nowadays.