

## 9 a little, a few, too much, too many, not enough



### 1 a little, a few

a little	+ uncountable nouns	<i>I think this soup needs a little salt.</i>
a few	+ plural nouns	<i>There are a few cafés near my house.</i>

We use *a little* to talk about a small amount. The exact amount is not important:  
*Food often tastes better when you add a little salt to it.*

We use *a few* to talk about a small number. The exact number is not important:  
*We've got a few friends in the village.*

**NATURAL ENGLISH** In everyday English, we don't often use *a little* + noun.

We prefer *a bit of* + noun.

*'Sit down and have a cup of coffee.'* 'OK, I've got **a bit of time**.'

We can use *a little* and *a few* without a noun, when it is clear what we are talking about:

*'Would you like some milk in your coffee?'* 'Yes, please, **a little**.'

*'Have you got any friends on Facebook?'* 'Yes, **a few**.'

### 2 too much, too many, not enough

too much	+ uncountable nouns	<i>Don't put too much pepper in the soup.</i>
too many	+ plural nouns	<i>I feel sick. I ate too many cakes.</i>
not enough	+ uncountable nouns + plural nouns	<i>I haven't got enough money to buy a car. There aren't enough eggs to make a cake.</i>

*Too much* and *too many* have a negative meaning. They mean 'more than we want':

*Let's go to another café. There are **too many people** here.*

*We made **too much food** for the party. No one was hungry.*

*It's bad to eat **too many burgers**.*

*Not enough* is the opposite of *too much/too many*. It means 'less/fewer than we want':

*We can't buy that car. We **haven't got enough money**!*

*The party was boring. There **weren't enough people** there.*

*We **haven't got enough bread**. We **haven't got enough eggs**.*

