

many friends many people few cars few countries

We use **a lot of / lots of / plenty of** with both *uncountable* and *plural nouns*:

a lot of luck lots of time plenty of money
a lot of friends lots of people plenty of ideas

Plenty = more than enough:

There's no need to hurry. We've got **plenty of time**.

Much is unusual in positive sentences (especially in spoken English). Compare:

We **didn't** spend **much** money.

but We **spent a lot of** money. (*not* We spent much money)

Do you **see** David **much**?

but I **see** David **a lot**. (*not* I see David much)

We use **many** and **a lot of** in all kinds of sentences:

Many people drive too fast. or **A lot of** people drive too fast.
 Do you know **many** people? or Do you know **a lot of** people?
 There aren't **many** tourists here. or There aren't **a lot of** tourists here.

Note that we say **many years / many weeks / many days** (*not* a lot of ...):

We've lived here for **many years**. (*not* a lot of years)

Little = not much, **few** = not many:

Gary is very busy with his job. He has **little time** for other things. (= not much time, less time than he would like)
 Vicky doesn't like living in London. She has **few friends** there. (= not many, not as many as she would like)

You can say **very little** and **very few**:

Gary has **very little** time for other things.
 Vicky has **very few** friends in London.

A little = some, a small amount:

Let's go and have a coffee. We have **a little** time before the train leaves.
(a little time = some time, enough time to have a coffee)
 'Do you speak English?' 'A **little**.' (so we can talk a bit)

A few = some, a small number:

I enjoy my life here. I have **a few** friends and we meet quite often.
(a few friends = not many but enough to have a good time)
 'When was the last time you saw Clare?' 'A **few** days ago.' (= some days ago)

Compare **little** and **a little**, **few** and **a few**:

He spoke **little** English, so it was difficult to communicate with him.
He spoke **a little** English, so we were able to communicate with him.
 She's lucky. She has **few** problems. (= not many problems)

3 Joe always puts much salt on his food.
 4 We'll have to hurry. We don't have much time.
 5 It cost much to repair the car.
 6 Did it cost much to repair the car?
 7 I don't know much people in this town.
 8 Mike travels much.
 9 There wasn't much traffic this morning.
 10 You need much money to travel round the world.

Complete the sentences using **plenty** or **plenty of** + the following:

hotels money room time to learn to see

1 There's no need to hurry. There's plenty of time.
 2 He doesn't have any financial problems. He has plenty.
 3 Come and sit with us. There's plenty.
 4 She knows a lot, but she still has plenty to learn.
 5 It's an interesting town to visit. There's plenty to see.
 6 I'm sure we'll find somewhere to stay.

Put in **much/many/little/few** (one word only).

1 She isn't very popular. She has few friends.
 2 Ann is very busy these days. She has little free time.
 3 Did you take many pictures when you were on holiday?
 4 I'm not very busy today. I don't have much to do.
 5 This is a very modern city. There are few old buildings.
 6 The weather has been very dry recently. We've had little rain.
 7 'Do you know Rome?' 'No, I haven't been there for many years.'

Put in **a (a few, a little)** where necessary. Write 'OK' if the sentence is already complete.

1 She's lucky. She has few problems. OK
 2 Things are not going so well for her. She has few problems. a few problems
 3 Can you lend me few dollars?
 4 There was little traffic, so the journey didn't take very long.
 5 I can't give you a decision yet. I need little time to think.
 6 It was a surprise that he won the match. Few people expected him to win.
 7 I don't know much Spanish – only few words.
 8 I wonder how Sam is. I haven't seen him for few months.

Put in **little / a little / few / a few**.

1 Gary is very busy with his job. He has little time for other things.
 2 Listen carefully. I'm going to give you little advice.
 3 Do you mind if I ask you few questions?
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