

8 *much, many, a lot of*

They sell a lot of vegetables here but they don't sell much fruit.



1 *much, many, a lot of* with a noun

<i>much</i>	+ uncountable nouns	<i>I don't eat much sugar. Hurry up. There isn't much time.</i>
<i>many</i>	+ plural nouns	<i>I don't eat many sweets. Are there many students from Japan?</i>
<i>a lot of</i>	+ plural nouns and uncountable nouns	<i>They sell a lot of vegetables. He doesn't earn a lot of money. Do you have a lot of homework today?</i>

We use *much*, *many* and *a lot of* to talk about a large amount or number. The exact amount or number is not important.

- We can use *a lot of* in positive and negative sentences and questions:

Lewis has got a lot of friends.

We haven't got a lot of time.

Are there a lot of students from Japan?

- We usually use *much* and *many* in negative sentences and questions:

Hurry up! We haven't got much time.

Are there many students from Japan?

NATURAL ENGLISH In everyday English, we don't use *much* or *many* in positive sentences.

We prefer *a lot of*.

There are a lot of tourists here in the summer.

2 *much, many, a lot* without a noun

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

Why don't you buy it? It doesn't cost much.

'Can I have some of your sweets?' 'No, I haven't got many.'

When we use *a lot* without a noun, we don't need of:

We learned a lot in today's lesson.

3 *how much?* or *how many?*

- We use *how much* and *how many* to ask about an exact amount or number.

We use *how much* with uncountable nouns:

How much sugar do I need?

- We use *how many* with countable nouns:

How many bedrooms are there in the hotel?

- We use *how much* to ask about prices:

How much is it? It's fifteen euros.

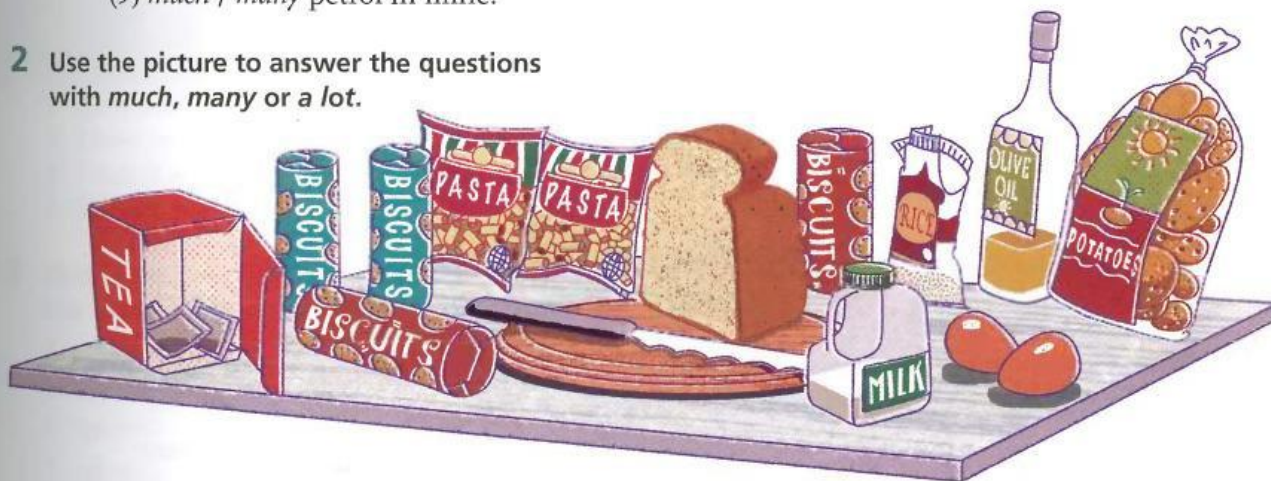
How much does it cost? It costs ten dollars.

Practice

1 GRAMMAR IN USE Choose the correct words in *italics* in the conversation.

- SAM Where shall we go shopping this afternoon? Shall we just go to the town centre?
 ALI I don't know. There aren't (0) *much* / *many* shops in the town centre.
 I think the big shopping centre is better – there are (1) *a lot of* / *much* shops there.
 SAM Mmm. But we haven't got (2) *much* / *many* time really, and it takes half an hour to drive there.
 ALI I know, but I need to buy (3) *many* / *a lot of* presents for my family, and I don't have (4) *much* / *many* money. There are (5) *many* / *a lot of* cheap shops in the shopping centre.
 SAM Are there (6) *many* / *much* people in your family, then?
 ALI Well, there aren't (7) *many* / *much* adults, but I've got (8) *much* / *a lot of* younger brothers and sisters.
 SAM OK, let's go to the shopping centre. But can we go in your car? There isn't (9) *much* / *many* petrol in mine.

2 Use the picture to answer the questions with *much*, *many* or *a lot*.



- 0 Have we got any milk? *We haven't got much.*
- 1 Have we got any rice?
- 2 Have we got any potatoes?
- 3 Have we got any olive oil?
- 4 Have we got any pasta?
- 5 Have we got any bread?
- 6 Have we got any biscuits?
- 7 Have we got any eggs?
- 8 Have we got any tea bags?

3 Complete the questions with *How much?* or *How many?* Then write true answers for you.

- 0 *How many*.. uncles have you got? *I've got three. / I haven't got any. / I haven't got many.*
- 1 aunts have you got?
- 2 work have you got at the moment?
- 3 good friends have you got?
- 4 chocolate do you eat?
- 5 exercise do you do?
- 6 coffee do you drink?