

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 _____.
- 3 Come and sit with us. There's _____.
- 4 She knows a lot, but she still has _____.
- 5 It's an interesting town to visit. There _____.
- 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 _____ free time.
- 3 Did you take _____ pictures when you were on holiday?
- 4 I'm not very busy today. I don't have _____ to do.
- 5 This is a very modern city. There are _____ old buildings.
- 6 The weather has been very dry recently. We've had _____ rain.
- 7 'Do you know Rome?' 'No, I haven't been there for _____ 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 _____ advice.
- 3 Do you mind if I ask you _____ questions?