



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 ¹*lot* / *lots* of time at the gym these days?
 B: No, not ²*much* / *many*. What about you?
 A: No, I don't have ³*some* / *any* spare time at the moment.
 B: I have the same problem. A ⁴*little* / *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 ⁵*much* / *many* hours do you work a week?
 B: A ⁶*lot* / *lots*! Last week I worked over one hundred hours.
 A: Wow! Do you get ⁷*some* / *any* holidays?
 B: I have a ⁸*some* / *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 lot / lots of} a 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.