

Too much vs too many: countable and uncountable

CEFR A2-B1 · 20 questions · A4 / US Letter

Too much takes uncountable nouns such as water and time. Too many takes countable plural nouns such as books and people. Enough goes after an adjective and before a noun.

The rule

Countable and uncountable

- Countable nouns have a plural: one book, two books.
- Uncountable nouns have no plural: water, money, time, information.
- Much and too much go with uncountable nouns.
- Many and too many go with countable plural nouns.

Too much with uncountable nouns

- Too much means more than you want or need: "There is too much salt in the soup."
- Too much can stand alone: "You have done too much today."
- It is common with abstract nouns: too much work, too much noise, too much time.
- Do not use too many with these nouns.

Too many with countable plurals

- Too many takes a plural noun: "There are too many cars on the road."
- The verb agrees with the plural: there are too many.
- Too many people is one of the most common phrases in English.
- Do not use too much with a plural noun.

Enough and the right amount

- Enough comes after an adjective or an adverb: "You are old enough."
- Enough comes before a noun: "We have enough chairs."
- Not enough means less than you need: "There is not enough milk."
- Too and enough often appear together: "It is too hot, and we do not have enough water."

Common traps

- Do not say "too much people"; people is a plural countable noun.
- Do not say "too many water"; water is uncountable.
- Money is uncountable: too much money, not too many money.

- A lot of works with both: "a lot of cars", "a lot of water".

Questions

Write your answer on the line under each question. Check your work with the answer key on the last page.

1. There is ___ salt in the soup; I cannot eat it.

2. There are ___ cars on the road; the traffic is terrible.

3. You have done ___ today; you need a rest.

4. ___ people forget their passwords.

5. We have ___ work this week, so we cannot take more.

6. You are old ___ to decide.

7. We do not have ___ chairs.

8. There is not ___ milk for breakfast.

9. She spends ___ money on shoes, and now she is broke.

10. He asks ___ questions, and the teacher is tired.

11. I drank ___ water after the run.

12. This coffee is ___ hot.

13. There were ___ people at the concert.

14. Do we have ___ time for a coffee?

15. There is ___ noise in this room; I cannot hear you.

16. I have ___ things to do today, and I do not know where to start.

17. She does not earn ___ to buy a house.

18. There are ___ mistakes in this essay.

19. We bought ___ bread and it went stale.

20. The bag is ___ heavy for me.

Answer key

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1. **too much** — Salt is uncountable, so it takes too much.
2. **too many** — Cars is a countable plural, so it takes too many.
3. **too much** — Too much stands alone for an uncountable amount of work.
4. **Too many** — People is a countable plural, so it takes too many.
5. **too much** — Work is uncountable, so too much fits.
6. **enough** — Enough follows the adjective old.
7. **enough** — Enough comes before the noun chairs.
8. **enough** — Not enough reports the shortage of an uncountable noun.
9. **too much** — Money is uncountable, so it takes too much.
10. **too many** — Questions is a countable plural, so it takes too many.
11. **too much** — Water is uncountable, so it takes too much.
12. **too** — The pattern is too plus the adjective hot; too much is not used here.
13. **too many** — People is a countable plural, so it takes too many.
14. **enough** — Enough comes before the uncountable noun time.
15. **too much** — Noise is uncountable, so it takes too much.
16. **too many** — Things is a countable plural, so it takes too many.
17. **enough** — Enough follows the verb earn to show the required amount.
18. **too many** — Mistakes is a countable plural, so it takes too many.
19. **too much** — Bread is uncountable, so too much fits.
20. **too** — The pattern is too plus the adjective heavy, without too much.