

*Tikrit University*

*College of Nursing*

*Basic Nursing Sciences*



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**English**

**(Quantity)**

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# Quantity

## Much, Many, Little, Few, Some, Any

### Many/ Much

#### -Many for countable, Much for uncountable

We use **many** before **plural** (countable) nouns and **much** before **uncountable** nouns. We use them in **negative** sentences and **questions**. We don't normally use them in affirmative sentences.

- *There isn't **much water** in the bottle.*
- *Were there **many students** in the party?*

### Too much/ Too many

Note that we don't normally use **much/many** in affirmative sentences, but we can use **too much** and **too many** in affirmative sentences.

- *There's **too much salt** in the soup.*
- *You eat **too many biscuits**.*

### How much/ How many

We use **how many** and **how much** to ask about quantity.

- ***How many lectures** have you ever been to?*
- ***How much coffee** have you had today?*

### A lot of/ Lots of

#### Before both countable and uncountable

We use **a lot of** or **lots of** (more informal) before both **plural** (countable) and **uncountable** nouns. We normally use them in positive sentences.

- *She spends **a lot of time** watching TV.*

- We had **lots of good** moments together.

We must always use **a lot of** or **lots of** including **of** before a noun. However, we can use the expressions **a lot** or **lots** (without **of**) at the end of a sentence.

- ‘How many pizza pieces did you have?’ ‘I don’t know; I had **lots/a lot**.’
- I like her **a lot**.

### (A) few/ (A) little/ a bit of

#### Few for countable, Little for uncountable

We use **(a) few** before **plural** (countable) nouns and **(a) little** or **a bit of** (more informal) before **uncountable** nouns.

- I have to do **a few things** this afternoon.
- He always gets good results with very **little effort**.
- Can you put **a bit of sugar** in the tea?

**A few** means ‘some but not many; enough’, and **a little** means ‘some but not much; enough’.

**Few/little** mean ‘almost none; not enough’.

Normally, the difference between **a few/little** (WITH **a**) and **few/little** (WITHOUT **a**) is that **a few/little** is positive in meaning, and **few/little** is negative. Compare:

- There’s **little milk** in the fridge; we have to buy more. (Not enough; we need more)
- ‘Shall I buy some cakes?’ ‘No, it’s OK, there are **a few** in the fridge.’ (=Enough; we don’t need more)
- ‘Do you speak English?’ ‘**No**, I speak very **little English**.’ (=Negative)
- ‘Do you speak English?’ ‘**Yes**, I speak **a little English**.’ (=Positive)

## Some/ Any

We use **some** in **affirmative** sentences and **any** in **negative** sentences and **questions**.

- *Is there **any sugar** in the cupboard?*
- *Have you got **any new friends**?*
- *I have **some questions** to ask you.*

Both **some** and **any** can be used before **countable and uncountable** nouns. But if we use them before a countable noun, the noun must be in the **plural** form.

- *Is there **any student** in the classroom? ✘*
- *Are there **any students** in the classroom? ✔*

### Some for offers and requests

We use **some** (NOT **any**) in interrogative sentences when we are offering or requesting (=asking for) something.

- *Would you like **some** help?*
- *Can I have **some** tea, please?*