

The world has water for everyone but...

■ HOW MANY COUNTRIES WILL HAVE A serious water shortage by the end of the 21st century? Few experts are in any doubt about the answer to this question: 'Too many.' Even by 2025, the World Resources Institute predicts that 3 billion people in 48 countries will have too little water for their

everyday needs. However, a few experts say there could be water for everyone on one condition - that more of us recognise its real value. John Briscoe, senior water advisor to the World Bank, says that if we don't pay much money for it, 'as with anything else, people will waste it.'



Presentation

You use *lots of* (or *a lot of*), *much*, *many*, *a little* and *a few* to talk about quantities:

	Uncountable nouns	Plural nouns
Questions	<i>How much ...?</i>	<i>How many ...?</i>
Large quantities	<i>lots of / a lot of</i>	<i>lots of / a lot of, many</i>
Small quantities	<i>(a) little, not much</i>	<i>(a) few, not many</i>

lots of / a lot of

Use *lots of* or *a lot of* to talk about large quantities. *Lots of* is less formal than *a lot of*:

Lots of experts agree. = **A lot of experts agree.**

Do not use *of* when there is no noun, for example, in short answers:

How many people believe this? Say **A lot.** (don't say *A lot of.*)

much / many

You usually use *much/many* in:

- questions: **How many countries are affected? How much water do they have?**
- negative statements to talk about small quantities: **People don't pay much money for water. Not many countries have a lot of water.**

You can also use *not much* and *not many* in short answers: *How many countries will have a lot of water?* **Not many.**

You don't normally use *much* in affirmative statements. You normally use *a lot/lots*. Say **We've got a lot of juice in the fridge.** (don't say **We've got much juice in the fridge.**)

You can use *many* in affirmative statements which are more formal (and often written): **Many people agree on the solution** (formal). **A lot of people waste water** (everyday).

little / a little / few / a few

You use *little/a little* and *few/a few* to talk about small quantities in affirmative statements. *A little* and *a few* have a positive meaning. *Little* and *few* have a negative meaning:

There's a little water left in the jug. ☺

There's little water left in the jug. ☹

A few experts believe there is no water shortage. ☺

Few experts believe there is no water shortage. ☹

TIP *not much/not many* have a similar meaning to *very little/very few*:

There isn't much time. = *There's very little time.*

too many / too much / too few / too little

Use *too much/too many* to talk about a bigger quantity than you want or need: **Too much water is wasted. Too many countries will have a water shortage. You've got too much food on your plate. Put some back.**

Use *too little/too few* to talk about **less** than you want or need: **Too little sleep can be very bad for you. Too few senior jobs in the world of finance go to women.**

Exercises

1 Complete the pairs of sentences using the words in bold.

little / a little

- 1 I've got sympathy with anyone who breaks the law! They should go to prison!
- 2 I've got time, so tell me what's on your mind.

much / many

- 3 How people visit your blog?
- 4 How time do you spend online?

lot / lots

- 5 A of people their age also go to nightclubs.

- 6 They go to of nightclubs.

too many / a lot of

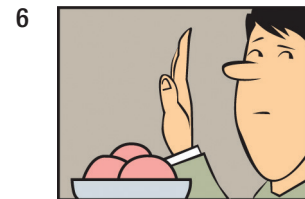
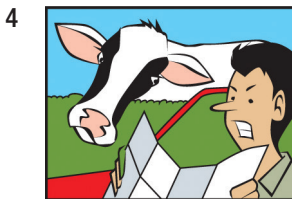
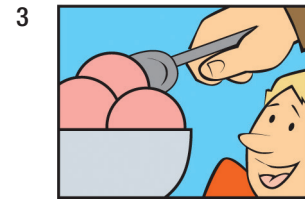
- 7 people take courses throughout their lives to improve their qualifications.
- 8 people are looking for the same job as me. It's really annoying!

few / not much

- 9 There are wild animals left in this part of the world.
- 10 money is given to protecting animals in this part of the world.

2 Look at the pictures. Use the words in the box to complete the sentences.

a few a lot of lots not many too too many too much



- 1 people came to watch the fireworks.
- 2 The roads have cars but cyclists.
- 3 for me, please!
- 4 There are few signposts round here.
- 5 people came but not very many.
- 6 That's for me.

3 There is one word missing in each sentence or conversation. Write it in.

- 1 I think there's ^a little cheese left. Would you like some?
- 2 Count how questions you answered correctly.
- 3 There are many people here. I only invited ten. Who are the other fifteen?
- 4 A lot new mobile technology comes out every week.
- 5 There are only a possibilities left to us. Which should we choose?
- 6 A: Do you like her new album? B: I like lot of the songs but not all of them.