

8

Commenting on amounts



Usage

We usually use *enough*, *not enough*, *too many*, *too much*, *too few* and *too little* before nouns or noun phrases to comment on the amounts of things.

- e.g. Mrs Green pays **too little** attention to the baby.
- e.g. Mum has given me **enough** money to buy lunch.
- e.g. There are **too few** apple trees in the garden.



Educator's Tips

We usually put *enough*, *not enough*, *too many*, *too much*, *too few* and *too little* before specific kinds of nouns.

	Position	Example
Enough / Not enough	Before plural countable and uncountable nouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The kids had enough <u>toys</u>. • There is not enough <u>space</u> to place the new fridge in the kitchen.
Too many / Too few	Before plural countable nouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too many <u>people</u> are gathering in this small open area. • I have done too few <u>exercises</u>.
Too much / Too little	Before uncountable nouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eating too much <u>fast food</u> is unhealthy. • There was too little <u>rain</u> last year.



Part 1 Enough, Not enough

We use *enough* to talk about having the **right amount of something**.

e.g. Mum has bought **enough clothes** for the coming season.
(Plural countable noun)

e.g. Dad saved **enough money** to buy a flat. (Uncountable noun)



We use *not enough* to talk about **not having as many or as much of something**.

e.g. Anson does **not wear enough clothes**. (Plural countable noun)

e.g. There is **not enough care** among our family members.
(Uncountable noun)



Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with 'enough' or 'not enough' and the correct form of the verbs given. The verbs can be used more than once.

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- Kim is very tired today. He did not have enough sleep last night.
- Remember to _____ warm-up exercises before you play sports.
- All Billy eats is meat. He _____ vegetables.
- Do you _____ clothes? It may get cold here at night.
- Because of the drought, there _____ water in the reservoir now.
- Although there _____ machines, the productivity of the factory was low. It was because there _____ workers to operate them.
- I _____ time to look after my son so I have hired Mary to be my babysitter. She _____ experience in babysitting. I believe she can look after my son well.





Part 2 Too many, Too few

We use *too many* to talk about **an amount that is more than enough**.

e.g. There are **too many** people around the fish pond! We can't take photos of the precious goldfish. (Plural countable noun)



We use *too few* to talk about **an amount that is not enough**.

e.g. Pete cooked **too few** chicken legs for us. We were still hungry after the meal. (Plural countable noun)



Educator's Tips



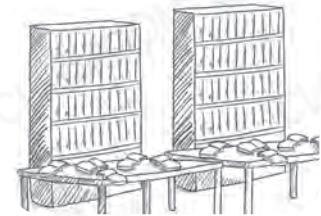
We can use *not enough* to replace *too few* to express the same meaning.

e.g. The waitress brought **too few** cups from the kitchen.
(= the waitress did **not** bring **enough** cups from the kitchen.)

Exercise 2

Underline the correct words in brackets.

1. The library is messy. There are **(a)** (too many / too few) books scattering over the tables. All of them should be put back. However, we have **(b)** (too many / too few) bookshelves. There is **(c)** (too few / not enough) space for all the books.



2. Miki failed her English test because she made **(a)** (too many / not enough) mistakes. She didn't revise at all. She spent **(b)** (too many / too few) hours watching TV. She regretted not putting **(c)** (too many / enough) effort in her studies.



3. There are plenty of fast food shops but there are **(a)** (too many / too few) restaurants offering healthy food. **(b)** (Too few / Not enough) promotion of a healthy diet is done by the government.





Part 3 Too much, Too little

We use *too much* to talk about **an amount that is more than enough**.

e.g. *Holly is overweight as she eats **too much** junk food.* (Uncountable noun)



We use *too little* to talk about **an amount that is not enough**.

e.g. *The boy did **too little** revision since he played TV games for the whole night.* (Uncountable noun)



Educator's Tips



We can use *not enough* to replace *too little* to express the same meaning.

e.g. *The boy gets **too little** support from his family.*
(= The boy does **not** get **enough** support from his family.)

Exercise 3

Fay is talking on the phone with her mum. Complete their conversation with 'too much', 'too little', 'enough' or 'not enough'.

Fay: Mum, I'm at the supermarket now. What do you need for the chocolate cake?

Mum: We have **(1)** _____ flour to make it. Can you buy a packet of flour, please?

Fay: Sure. What else?

Mum: There's **(2)** _____ butter at home. Buy some.

Fay: OK. Do we have **(3)** _____ chocolate?

Mum: I think so. Putting **(4)** _____ chocolate in the cake will make it too sweet. I don't like that.

Fay: But if there's **(5)** _____ chocolate in it, the cake will taste bland. I'll buy one packet of chocolate, just in case.

Mum: Alright. Don't buy any icing sugar. We have **(6)** _____ icing sugar already. Do you have **(7)** _____ money, dear?

Fay: Oh, yes. Dad gave me \$500 this morning. He said I could keep the change.

Mum: What? Your dad gave you **(8)** _____ money! The things that you need to buy cost about \$100 only!



Educator's Tips



We can use *enough*, *not enough*, *too many*, *too much*, *too few* and *too little* on their own (not followed by a noun) when it is clear what we are talking about.

e.g. Teacher: Was there **enough** time for the test?

Student: Yes, there was **enough**. (= enough time)

More theme-related vocabulary on P.144 **DSE**

Theme: The individual and society (Animal welfare)

Text Type: Letter to the editor

Unit Recap

Martin is writing a letter to the editor about pet dog welfare. Complete the letter with 'enough', 'not enough', 'too many', 'too few', 'too much' or 'too little'.

Dear Editor,

I am writing to draw the public's attention to the *deficiencies* in pet dog welfare.

Firstly, there are (1) ^{not enough //} too few open areas for dog owners and their dogs to enjoy. (2) _____ parks in Hong Kong allow dogs to play off leash. Lacking exercise for (3) _____ days will make dogs fall sick easily. They need to run around and stretch their muscles, and only parks can provide them with (4) _____ space to do so.

Furthermore, there are (5) _____ dog facilities on the streets. For example, there are (6) _____ dog toilets along the streets. It would not cost (7) _____ to build a few more dog facilities but they could help create a more dog-friendly environment.

Lastly, we have (8) _____ promotion of responsible dog ownership. There are (9) _____ cases in which pet dogs are abandoned by their owners who have (10) _____ knowledge about taking care of dogs.

In short, I hope the public's awareness of pet dog welfare can be raised.

Yours faithfully,

Martin Fong



Vocabulary:

deficiency (n.): a state of not having enough of something that is needed

