

117 Too and enough

1 Introduction



Too short and **not long enough** both mean the same thing.

2 Word order with **too** and **enough**

Too goes before an adjective or adverb.

*Claire doesn't want to marry Henry. She thinks he's **too old**.*

*Zedco are in trouble. The company reacted **too slowly** to the rise in prices.*

Enough goes after an adjective or adverb.

*The water isn't **hot enough**. It needs to be boiling.* NOT ~~enough hot~~

*You didn't put the screws in **tightly enough**.* NOT ~~enough tightly~~

Too many, **too much** and **enough** go before a noun.

*No wonder you're tired. You've been going to **too many parties**.*

*Andrew spends **too much time** working.*

*There'll be fifteen people for coffee. Have we got **enough cups**?*

*Everything is so expensive. Did you bring **enough money**?*

We use **many** with a plural noun and **much** with an uncountable noun (see Unit 95.1).

Compare these examples with **enough**.

After an adjective: *The coffee isn't **strong enough**.*

Before a noun: *You didn't put **enough coffee** in.*

We leave out the noun if the meaning is clear without it.

*Just add a little water. Not **too much**. We'll need fifteen cups. Have we got **enough**?*

3 Other structures with **too** and **enough**

We can use a phrase with **for** after **too** or **enough**.

*These puzzles are **too difficult for children**. This coat isn't warm **enough for winter**.*

*Have we got **enough cups for everyone**?*

We can also use a to-infinitive.

*It's **too dangerous to walk** home at this time of night.*

*There are **too many museums here to visit** in a single day.*

*Are you fit **enough to run** a marathon?*

*I couldn't get close **enough to see** properly.*

*Vicky didn't bring **enough money to buy** two CDs.*

Practice

A Too and enough (1–2)

Look at the pictures and write sentences with *too* and *enough*.

Use these nouns and adjectives: *big, gate, long, low, plane, sweater, ruler, warm, water, wide*



- ▶ The sweater is too big. 1
- ▶ The ruler isn't long enough. 2
- 3

B Too and enough (1–2)

Look at what people are saying and complete the sentences. Use *too*, *too many*, *too much* or *enough* with these words: *clearly, complicated, difficult, expensive, food, hastily, mistakes, rain, sweet, traffic*

- ▶ You should have stopped to think first. You acted *too hastily*.
- ▶ This quiz is rather easy. The questions aren't *difficult enough*.
- 1 Can I have some more sugar in my coffee, please? It isn't
- 2 I can't afford a new stereo. It would be
- 3 There's a water shortage. There just hasn't been
- 4 I can't read your writing. You don't write
- 5 Try to be more careful, please. You're making
- 6 The roads are very crowded. There's simply
- 7 I can't understand these instructions. They're
- 8 Thousands of people are starving because they can't get

C Other structures with too and enough (3)

Comment on the situations. Use *too* or *enough* and a phrase with *for* or a to-infinitive.

- ▶ A taxi would have been best. But you didn't have the money.
I didn't have enough money for a taxi.
- ▶ Sarah can't take a day off. She's very busy.
Sarah is too busy to take a day off.
- 1 A picnic would be nice. But it's wet.
.....
- 2 All your guests will need chairs. But you haven't got very many.
.....
- 3 You couldn't carry the equipment. You had such a lot.
.....
- 4 Natasha wants to be a professional musician. You think she's very good.
.....