

Much, Many, A Little, A Few, Enough, A Couple Of

A2 English Worksheet – Lesson 3: Talking About Quantity More Precisely

Language Focus

At A2 level, we use more precise words to talk about quantity.

much	Uncountable nouns – questions and negative sentences	<i>We don't have much time before the event. How much funding do we have?</i>
many	Countable nouns – questions and negative sentences	<i>How many volunteers have signed up? We don't have many sponsors yet.</i>
a little	Uncountable nouns – a small amount, usually enough	<i>There's a little publicity for the event so far.</i>
a few	Countable nouns – a small number, usually enough	<i>We have a few local businesses interested in donating.</i>
enough / not enough	Sufficient / insufficient – any noun type	<i>We have enough sponsors for the raffle prizes.</i>
a couple of	A small number (often two) – countable nouns	<i>Let's contact a couple of local newspapers this week.</i>

Remember: much and many usually appear in questions and negative sentences at this level. In positive sentences, we normally use a lot of instead.

Listening: Organising a Charity Fundraiser

Listen to the dialogue (or read it with a partner). Then complete Exercise 1.

- Priya:** How's the fundraiser planning going?
Dan: Not bad, but we don't have much time before the event.
Priya: How many volunteers have signed up so far?
Dan: We don't have many volunteers yet - only six people.
Priya: That's a little worrying. Do we have enough sponsors for the raffle prizes?
Dan: Yes, we have enough sponsors, but we don't have much funding for advertising.
Priya: We have a few local businesses interested in donating prizes.
Dan: Good. Is there enough publicity for the event on social media?
Priya: There's a little publicity so far, but we need more.
Dan: Let's contact a couple of local newspapers this week.
Priya: Great idea. We also need a few more people to sell tickets.
Dan: I'll ask a couple of colleagues to help with that.

1. True or False

Context: the fundraiser (from the listening)

1. They don't have much time before the event. True / False
2. Many volunteers have already signed up. True / False
3. They have enough sponsors for the raffle prizes. True / False
4. There is a lot of publicity for the event already. True / False
5. They need more people to sell tickets. True / False

2. Multiple Choice

Context: environmental volunteering

1. We don't have ___ information about the new recycling scheme yet.
much / many
2. There aren't ___ recycling bins in this area.
much / many
3. There's ___ awareness about plastic pollution in our town.
a little / a few
4. We've already collected ___ signatures for the petition.
a little / a few
5. Do we have ___ volunteers to clean up the park on Saturday?
enough / a couple of
6. Could you contact ___ local schools about the project?
a couple of / much

3. Matching

Context: preparing for a job interview

Draw a line to match each sentence to its meaning.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. I don't have much experience in project management. | <i>Two or a small number of references needed</i> |
| 2. There aren't many candidates for this position. | <i>Very few people applied</i> |
| 3. I have a little knowledge of the software they use. | <i>Almost no experience - a weakness</i> |
| 4. I've prepared a few questions for the interviewer. | <i>Some knowledge, but not expert level</i> |
| 5. I need a couple of references from previous employers. | <i>A small number of questions - not too many</i> |

4. Gap Fill

Context: planning a business conference

Write the correct word in each gap.

1. We don't have _____ budget left for extra flights this quarter.
(choose: *much / many*)
2. There aren't _____ hotel rooms available near the conference centre.
(choose: *much / many*)
3. There's _____ time before the keynote speech starts.
(choose: *a little / a few*)
4. I've already met _____ speakers from other companies.
(choose: *a little / a few*)
5. We don't have _____ information about the schedule changes yet.
(choose: *enough / a couple of*)

5. Word Order

Context: a doctor's appointment

Put the words in the correct order to make a sentence.

1. have / don't / We / much / information / about / the / side / effects
2. aren't / many / There / appointments / left / at / the / clinic / today
3. little / a / is / There / improvement / in / his / condition / today
4. a / need / We / few / more / results / before / the / diagnosis
5. have / don't / We / enough / evidence / for / a / clear / diagnosis

6. Word Sort

Sort the words into the two groups.

volunteers, funding, sponsors, publicity, candidates, knowledge, appointments, evidence, references, awareness

Countable (volunteers, sponsors...):

Uncountable (no plural):

7. Complete the Conversation

Context: a community garden project

Tom and Lin are planning a community garden project. Complete with: much, many, a little, a few, enough, a couple of.

Tom: How _____ interest is there in the community garden project?

Lin: There's quite a lot actually. Do we have _____ volunteers to start digging this weekend?

Tom: I think so, but we don't have _____ tools for everyone yet.

Lin: That's fine, we can share. We only have _____ space for a vegetable patch, so we need to plan carefully.

Tom: Good point. Let's ask _____ neighbours to help build the raised beds.

Lin: Great idea. We also need _____ more funding for seeds and soil.

Tom: I'll contact _____ local garden centres for donations.

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A2 Teacher Answer Key – Lesson 3

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1. True or False - Answers

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. They don't have much time before the event. | True |
| 2. Many volunteers have already signed up. | False |
| 3. They have enough sponsors for the raffle prizes. | True |
| 4. There is a lot of publicity for the event already. | False |
| 5. They need more people to sell tickets. | True |

2. Multiple Choice - Answers

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. We don't have ___ information about the recycling scheme. | much |
| 2. There aren't ___ recycling bins in this area. | many |
| 3. There's ___ awareness about plastic pollution. | a little |
| 4. We've collected ___ signatures for the petition. | a few |
| 5. Do we have ___ volunteers to clean the park? | enough |
| 6. Could you contact ___ local schools about it? | a couple of |

3. Matching - Answers

1. I don't have much experience in project management.
Almost no experience - a weakness
2. There aren't many candidates for this position.
Very few people applied
3. I have a little knowledge of the software they use.
Some knowledge, but not expert level
4. I've prepared a few questions for the interviewer.
A small number of questions - not too many
5. I need a couple of references from previous employers.
Two or a small number of references needed

4. Gap Fill - Answers

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. We don't have ___ budget left for extra flights. | much |
| 2. There aren't ___ hotel rooms available. | many |
| 3. There's ___ time before the keynote speech. | a little |
| 4. I've already met ___ speakers from other companies. | a few |
| 5. We don't have ___ information about the schedule. | enough |

5. Word Order - Answers

1. We don't have much information about the side effects.
2. There aren't many appointments left at the clinic today.
3. There is a little improvement in his condition today.
4. We need a few more results before the diagnosis.
5. We don't have enough evidence for a clear diagnosis.

6. Word Sort - Answers

Countable (volunteers, sponsors...):

volunteers, sponsors, candidates, appointments, references

Uncountable (no plural):

funding, publicity, knowledge, evidence, awareness

7. Complete the Conversation - Answers

- | | | |
|-------------|---|--------------------|
| Tom: | How ___ interest is there in the project? | much |
| Lin: | Do we have ___ volunteers this weekend? | enough |
| Tom: | We don't have ___ tools for everyone. | many |
| Lin: | We only have ___ space for a vegetable patch. | a little |
| Tom: | Let's ask ___ neighbours to help. | a few |
| Lin: | We also need ___ more funding for seeds. | a little |
| Tom: | I'll contact ___ local garden centres. | a couple of |