

Grammar Reference

Too much / too many / enough / not enough / very

Meaning and use

In English, we can use **too**, **enough** and **very** with **adjectives** to indicate **degree**. **Too** describes something negative or unwanted, **enough** describes the right amount of something, and **very** makes the adjective stronger.

*Matthew: Those shoes were **very** nice. Did you buy them?*

*Simon: No, I didn't. They were **too** expensive.*

Jenny: Did you buy that dress?

*Sally: No, I didn't. It wasn't big **enough**.*

We can also use **too** with **much** and **many** to talk about an **amount** or **number** of something which is more or less than what we want or need. For countable nouns, such as 'apples' or 'people', we use **many**. For uncountable nouns, like 'rice' or 'water', we use **much**.

*There **are too many** people on the bus.*

*There **is too much** salt in this soup.*

Form

For **degree**, we use **too + adjective**.

For **amount** or **number**, the order is **too + many/much + noun**.

*It's **too hot** in here.*

*James ate **too much** pizza.*

***Too many** people came to the theatre.*

Enough comes after an adjective or before a noun:

adjective + enough

enough + noun

*My handwriting is **good enough**.*

*His car isn't **fast enough**.*

*We have **enough** food.*

*I don't have **enough** money.*

Very comes before adjectives and makes them stronger:

very + adjective

not very + adjective

*That test was **very difficult**.*

*The weather's **not very nice** today.*

Positive

*There are **too many** people in the pool.*

*We have **enough** money to buy a house.*

Negative

*There aren't **enough** tickets for the show.*

*That meal wasn't **too** expensive.*

Question

*Are you **comfortable enough**?*

*Are there **enough** chairs for everyone?*

Take note: strong adjectives

We **do not** use **very** if the adjective is already **strong**. These examples are wrong:

*The pianist was **very excellent**.*

*The Grand Canyon is **very enormous**.*

*Her response was **very correct**.*

These are correct:

*That movie was **incredible**.*

*Her performance was **dreadful**.*

*The weather's **perfect**.*

Spoken English

The word **enough** is pronounced with the short vowel sound /ʌ/ (as in **cup**) and the voiceless sound /f/ (as in **fat**) at the end.

I don't have enough /ɪnʌf/ money.