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.



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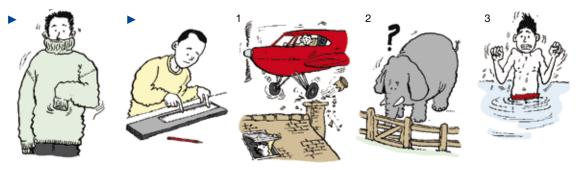


Practice

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

- sweet, traffic

 You should have stopped to think first. You acted too hastily.
- This quiz is rather easy. The questions aren't difficult exough.

 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.

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