



ENGLISH GRAMMAR 2 INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Unit 87 – much, many, little,
few, a lot, plenty



tienganh

much, many, little, few, a lot, plenty

MUCH AND LITTLE

A

❖ We use **much** and **little** with **uncountable nouns**:

- much luck much time little energy little money

❖ We use **many** and **few** with plural nouns:

- many friends many people few cars few children

❖ We use a **lot of / lots of / plenty of** with both uncountable and plural nouns:

- a lot of luck lots of time plenty of money
- a lot of friends lots of people plenty of ideas

❖ **plenty** = more than enough:

- EX1: There's no need to hurry. We've got **plenty of time**.
- EX2: There's **plenty to do** in this town.

much, many, little, few, a lot, plenty

MUCH vs MANY AND A LOT OF

B

- ❖ **Much** is unusual in positive sentences (especially in spoken English). Compare:
 - EX3: We **didn't** spend **much** money. but We **spent a lot** of money.
 - EX4: **Do you see** David **much**? but I **see** David **a lot**.
- ❖ But we use **too much / so much / as much** in positive sentences:
 - EX5: We **spent too much** money.
- ❖ We use **many** and **a lot of** in all kinds of sentences:
 - EX6: **Many** people drive too fast. or **A lot of** people drive too fast.
 - EX7: Do you know many people? or Do you know **a lot of** people?
 - EX8: There aren't many tourists here. or There aren't **a lot of** tourists here.
- ❖ Note that we say **many years / many weeks / many days**:
 - EX9: We've lived here for **many years**. (not usually a lot of years)

much, many, little, few, a lot, plenty

LITTLE AND FEW

C

❖ **little** = not much, **few** = not many:

- EX10: Gary is very busy with his job. He has little time for other things.

(= not much time, less time than he would like)

- EX11: Vicky doesn't like living in London. She has few friends there.

(= not many friends, not as many as she would like)

❖ We often use **very little** and **very few**:

- EX12: Gary has **very little time** for other things.
- EX13: Vicky has **very few friends** in London.

much, many, little, few, a lot, plenty

A LITTLE vs A FEW

D

❖ **a little** = some, a small amount:

- EX14: Let's go and have coffee. We have **a little** time before the train leaves.

(**a little time** = some time, enough time to have a coffee)

EX15: 'Do you speak English?' '**A little.**' (so we can talk a bit)

❖ **a few** = some, a small number:

- EX16: I enjoy my life here. I have **a few friends** and we meet quite often.

(**a few friends** = not many, but enough to have a good time)

- EX17: 'When was the last time you saw Clare?' '**A few days ago.**' (= 3 or 4 days ago)

much, many, little, few, a lot, plenty

LITTLE vs A LITTLE / FEW vs A FEW

E

❖ Compare **little** and **a little**, **few** and **a few**:

- EX18: He spoke **little English**, so it was difficult to communicate with him.

He spoke **a little English**, so we were able to communicate with him.

- EX19: She's lucky. She has **few problems**. (= not many problems)

Things are not going so well for her. She has **a few problems**. (= some problems)

❖ We say **only a little** (*not only little*) and **only a few** (*not only few*):

- EX20: Hurry! We **only** have **a little** time. (= some, but not much time)

- EX21: The village was small. There were **only a few** houses. (= some but not many houses)

much, many, little, few, a lot, plenty



TÓM TẮT

1. Chúng ta dùng **much** (nhiều) và **little** (ít) với các danh từ không đếm được, Còn **many** (nhiều) và **few** (ít) với danh từ đếm được số nhiều. **A lot of, lots of, plenty of** có thể được dùng với cả danh từ đếm được và không đếm được.
2. **Much** thường ít được dùng ở thể khẳng định mà được dùng nhiều hơn ở thể phủ định và nghi vấn. *We didn't spend **much** money.* Còn **many** và **a lot of** có thể được dùng ở tất cả các thể. *There aren't **many** tourists here.*
3. **Little** và **few** đều có nghĩa là ít, nhưng **little** dùng với danh từ không đếm được, còn **few** dùng với danh từ đếm được số nhiều.
4. Tương tự như vậy, **a little** (không đếm được) và **a few** (đếm được số nhiều) có nghĩa là một ít, mang nghĩa tích cực. *He spoke **a little English**, so we were able to communicate with him.* Còn **little** và **few** nghĩa là ít, mang nghĩa tiêu cực, phủ định. *He spoke **little English**, so it was difficult to communicate with him.*