8 much, many, a lot of

1 *much, many, a lot of* with a noun

much	+ uncountable nouns	*I don't eat much sugar.* *Hurry up. There isn't much time.*
many	+ plural nouns	*I don't eat many sweets.* *Are there many students from Japan?*
a lot of	+ plural nouns and uncountable nouns	*They sell a lot of vegetables.* *He doesn't earn a lot of money.* *Do you have a lot of homework today?*

We use *much, many* and *a lot of* to talk about a large amount or number. The exact amount or number is not important.

- We can use *a lot of* in positive and negative sentences and questions:
  Lewis has got ***a lot of*** *friends.*
  We haven't got ***a lot of*** *time.*
  Are *there* ***a lot of*** *students from Japan?*
- We usually use *much* and *many* in negative sentences and questions:
  Hurry up! We haven't got ***much*** *time.*
  Are *there* ***many*** *students from Japan?*

NATURAL ENGLISH In everyday English, we don't use *much* or *many* in positive sentences. We prefer *a lot of*:
There are ***a lot of*** *tourists here in the summer.*

2 *much, many, a lot* without a noun

We can use *much* and *many* without a noun, when it is clear what we are talking about:
Why don't you buy it? It doesn't cost ***much****.*
'Can I have some of your sweets?' 'No, I haven't got ***many****.'*

When we use *a lot* without a noun, we don't need *of*:
We learned ***a lot*** *in today's lesson.*

3 *how much?* or *how many?*

- We use *how much* and *how many* to ask about an exact amount or number.
  We use *how much* with uncountable nouns:
  How much *sugar do I need?*
- We use *how many* with countable nouns:
  How many *bedrooms are there in the hotel?*
- We use *how much* to ask about prices:
  How much *is it? It's fifteen euros.*
  How much *does it cost? It costs ten dollars.*