

A NICE PLACE TO LIVE: *much, many, a lot of*

THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR

- The main grammar focus is on quantifiers – *much, many, a lot of* – but there is also extensive use of *there is* and *there are*.
- Latin American Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese speakers may have problems with some of the uncountable nouns. For example, the equivalent of *furniture* can be singular or plural but not uncountable. There are also no irregular plurals in Latin American Spanish making nouns such as *people* and *children* problematic.
- In Latin American Spanish the usage distinction between *a lot of* and *much* is difficult because the apparent equivalent of *much* is used in affirmative, interrogative and negative sentences. This causes odd sentences such as *He has much money.* ✗
- For both Brazilian Portuguese and Latin American Spanish speakers *there is / are* is difficult since the Spanish and Portuguese equivalents have no singular / plural distinction.

ANSWERS

EXERCISE 1

- 1 There isn't *much* / ~~*many*~~ nightlife in our town.
- 2 How ~~*much*~~ / *many* people live there?
- 3 There aren't ~~*much*~~ / *many* taxis.
- 4 You should visit as ~~*much*~~ / *many* places as you can.
- 5 How *much* / ~~*many*~~ money should I bring?
- 6 I couldn't find *much* / ~~*many*~~ information about the city.

EXERCISE 2

Note: There may be some alternative answers since there is a degree of subjectivity regarding the picture, i.e. the first sentence could read *There is a lot of space*.

Note: The students may think that only one word goes in each blank. Point out that more than one word can fit.

- 1 There aren't many people.
- 2 There is a lot of garbage.
- 3 How many cars are there?
- 4 There is a lot of traffic.
- 5 Are there many stores?
- 6 Is there a bank?

EXERCISE 3

Note: Question 6 could cause difficulties since *crime* can be both countable and uncountable. In this situation it is general, so it is uncountable.

- 1 How many places should we visit?
- 2 How many tourists are there?
- 3 How much information do you want?
- 4 How many people live in New York?
- 5 How much space do you need?
- 6 How much crime is there in your city?

EXERCISE 4

- 1 There is a lot to do in my town.
- 2 There are a lot of markets to visit.
- 3 You need a lot of time to see all the sights.
- 4 How many tourists are there?
- 5 There are a lot of good stores and restaurants.
- 6 There isn't too much pollution.

PERSONALIZE IT!

- You can perform activities that are similar to exercise 4 using mistakes that your students have made.
- Give your students a picture of a place (pictures from travel brochures are a good source) and ask them to write five sentences about the place in the picture.
- Personalize it by asking your students to write five sentences about the place they live in.

A NICE PLACE TO LIVE

EXERCISE 1

Choose the correct determiner for the sentences.

It doesn't take much / ~~many~~ time.

- 1 There isn't *much* / *many* nightlife in our town.
- 2 How *much* / *many* people live there?
- 3 There aren't *much* / *many* taxis.
- 4 You should visit as *much* / *many* places as you can.
- 5 How *much* / *many* money should I bring?
- 6 I couldn't find *much* / *many* information about the city.

EXERCISE 2

Look at the picture and complete the sentences.



There ~~isn't much~~ space.

- 1 There people.
- 2 There garbage.
- 3 How cars there?
- 4 There traffic.
- 5 there stores?
- 6 there bank?

EXERCISE 3

Complete the questions with *How many* or *How much*.

~~How much~~ time do we have?

- 1 places should we visit?
- 2 tourists are there?
- 3 information do you want?
- 4 people live in New York?
- 5 space do you need?
- 6 crime is there in your city?

EXERCISE 4

Correct the mistakes in the sentences.

There are much parks. ✗

There are many parks. ✓

- 1 There are a lot to do in my town.
.....
- 2 There are much markets to visit.
.....
- 3 You need much time to see all the sights.
.....
- 4 How much tourists are there?
.....
- 5 There is a lot of good stores and restaurants.
.....
- 6 There isn't too many pollution.
.....