

3.6 too and not enough

We use **too** and **(not) enough** to make comparisons and talk about a degree of a quality. **Too** means 'more than you need or want'. **Enough** means 'the amount you need'. **Not enough** means 'less than you need or want'.

We use **too**:

- before adjectives:

*The painting is **too dark** and I can't see what's in it.*

Too has a negative meaning when used in an affirmative sentence. When used with negation, it has a positive meaning:

*The plot **is too complex** – I can't understand it.*

*The plot **isn't too complex** – it's easy to follow it.*

- with nouns, in expressions **too many/much**:

*There are **too many horror films** at the cinema these days.*

*The artist didn't give **too much advice** to the kids so they painted how they liked.*

We use **(not) enough**:

- after adjectives:

*The special effects weren't **realistic enough** so the film wasn't very popular.*

- before nouns:

*I think there are **enough cooking programmes** on TV nowadays.*

Enough has a positive meaning when used in an affirmative sentence. When used with negation, it has a negative meaning:

*We had **enough photos** to prepare the exhibition.*

*We **didn't have enough** photos to prepare the exhibition.*

- 1 Complete the sentences with **too** or **enough** and the adjectives in the box.

chilly complex dishonest embarrassing
generous good imaginative outgoing

- I think Angela is _____ to trust with the money for our concert tickets.
- Do you think Adam is _____ to write a fantasy novel?
- Sarah isn't _____ to take part in a live TV show.
- It's much _____ to go painting outside, so we'll stay the art studio today.
- John thinks it's _____ to walk through the streets in his Batman costume.
- Do you think the company is _____ to buy us new cameras?
- Tom's grades aren't _____ to get into a better school.
- I didn't enjoy that thriller – the plot was _____ for me.

- 2 Complete the dialogues with **too** or **enough** and the word(s) in brackets.

- A: Are you going to watch the new Star Wars film at the cinema?
B: The tickets are _____, so I'll wait for the DVD. (expensive)
- A: Why was the exhibition cancelled?
B: In the end, there weren't _____ (paintings)
- A: Do you still want to learn how to play the guitar?
B: No. I think there are _____, so I'll learn the drums. (guitar players)
- A: Do you want to watch this new science fiction series?
B: No. TV series are _____ and a waste of time. (addictive)
- A: This thriller isn't very good, is it?
B: Yes, it isn't _____ to continue watching. (gripping)
- A: I don't know what's happening in this period drama.
B: Yeah, the plot is much _____ to understand. (complex)

- 3 UNIT REVIEW Choose the answer, A, B or C, that is closest in meaning to the words in bold.

- I think **the concert won't be too popular**.
A a lot of people will go to the concert
B not many people will go to the concert
C nobody will go to the concert
- There **shouldn't be more** game shows on TV.
A are enough
B aren't enough
C aren't many
- I think **there should be more** art in public spaces.
A there is enough
B there isn't enough
C there is too much
- At the end of this film, the bad character **shows his support for** the hero.
A takes on
B gives up
C stands up for
- This sculpture is **smaller than** I thought it would be.
A as big as
B as small as
C not as big as
- I love **books with creative plots set in famous periods in the past**.
A fantasy novels
B historical fiction books
C biographies