

# UNIT 27

## How many and How much; Quantity Expressions

### A TRIP

#### OUTCOMES

- Use *how many* and *how much* to ask questions about quantities
- Use *a few*, *not many*, *a little*, and *not much* to describe quantities
- Answer questions about a reading
- Identify true and false sentences about a news report
- Ask and answer questions about traveling and everyday activities
- Write a conversation about a place you visited

### STEP 1 GRAMMAR IN CONTEXT

#### BEFORE YOU READ

**A VOCABULARY** Study the words. Then complete the sentences with the words.



an island



an animal



a plant



a flight

1. We can take a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ to Ecuador.
2. A place with water all around is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ has leaves and needs water and sun to grow.
4. A dog is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.

**B** Work with a partner. Compare your answers in A. Then name an island, a plant, and an animal. Take turns.

EXAMPLE: A: Hong Kong is an island.  
 B: Madagascar is an island, too.

# READ

Read this conversation.

## A Great Trip

STEVE: So how was Ecuador?  
 JESSICA: Great.  
 STEVE: How many days were you away?  
 JESSICA: Ten. We were in Guayaquil, and we were on the Galápagos Islands, too.  
 MARK: The Galápagos Islands? That sounds exciting. How much time did you spend there?  
 TIM: Not much. Only four days. But it was fantastic. We took hundreds of photos of the plants and animals. We slept and ate on a boat.  
 MARK: Really? How many people were on the boat?  
 JESSICA: Twelve.  
 STEVE: How much did the trip cost?  
 JESSICA: Just a little. Tim won it. We only paid for our food.  
 MARK: Was the flight free, too?  
 JESSICA: Yes, it was.  
 MARK: Lucky you! I love to travel.  
 TIM: I agree. Nothing beats travel.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Nothing beats travel: travel is a lot of fun

### AFTER YOU READ

**A COMPREHENSION** Look at the conversation again. Answer the questions. Use the words from the box.

A little	Hundreds	Two	Ten	Twelve
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- How many photos did Steve and Jessica take? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many days did Steve and Jessica spend in Ecuador? \_\_\_\_\_
- How much money did Steve and Jessica spend? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many people were on the boat? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many places did Steve and Jessica visit? \_\_\_\_\_

**B** Work with a partner. Compare your answers in A.

Go to [MyEnglishLab](#) for more grammar in context practice.

## STEP 2 GRAMMAR PRESENTATION

### HOW MANY AND HOW MUCH; QUANTITY EXPRESSIONS

#### How many + Count Nouns

How many	photos	did you take?
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#### Quantity Expressions

A lot. Not many. A few. Sixty.
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#### How much + Non-Count Nouns

How much	time	did you spend there?
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#### Quantity Expressions

A lot. Not much. A little.
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### GRAMMAR NOTES

#### 1 How many and How much

Use *how many* or *how much* to ask about the quantity of something.

Use *how many* before a **plural count noun**.

A: **How many** <sup>PLURAL  
COUNT NOUN</sup> **days** were you there?  
B: Fifteen.

Use *how much* before a **non-count noun**.

A: **How much** <sup>NON-COUNT  
NOUN</sup> **rain** do they usually get in May?  
B: Not much.

**USAGE NOTE** Use *how much* to ask about the **cost** of something. When we talk about cost, we often use *how much* **without a noun**. The reader or listener knows we're asking about the cost.

A: **How much** was your flight?  
B: Three hundred dollars.

#### 2 A lot of

To answer questions with *how many* or *how much*, use *a lot* or *a lot of* for **large quantities or amounts**.

Use *a lot of* before **plural count nouns** and **non-count nouns**.

A: How many people live in Quito?  
B: **A lot.** or **A lot of people** live in Quito.

**BE CAREFUL!** Use *a lot* without *of* for short answers.

A: How much time did you spend on the boat?  
B: **A lot.**  
**NOT** A lot of.

### 3 A few, Not many, A little, Not much

To answer questions with *how many* or *how much*, use *a few*, *not many*, *a little*, and *a few* for **small amounts**.

Use *a few* or *not many* before **plural count nouns**.

You can also use *a few* and *not many* as short answers without a noun.

Use *a little* or *not much* before **non-count nouns**.

You can also use *a little* and *not much* as short answers without a noun.

A: How many people were on the boat?

B: **A few people** were on the boat. **or A few.**

A: How many days did you go swimming?

B: **Not many.** (*We didn't swim many days.*)

A: How much tea did you drink?

B: I drank **a little tea.** **or A little.**

A: How much time did you spend in Guayaquil?

B: **Not much.**

## REFERENCE NOTES

For **definitions of grammatical terms**, see the Glossary on page 375.

For more information on **count and non-count nouns**, see Unit 21 on page 237.

Go to [MyEnglishLab](#) to watch the grammar presentation.

## STEP 3 FOCUSED PRACTICE

### EXERCISE 1 DISCOVER THE GRAMMAR

**A GRAMMAR NOTES 1-3** Read the conversations. Underline *how many* and *how much*, and circle the nouns they go with.

- A: How many flights go to the Galápagos Islands from Guayaquil?  
B: A few each day.
- A: How many seats are available on Flight 1?  
B: Not many. You need to make a reservation now.
- A: How much time does it take to get to the airport?  
B: Not much. Only about thirty minutes.
- A: How much money does the flight cost?  
B: About \$550.
- A: How many tourists visit the Galápagos Islands in May?  
B: A lot. Most tourists go there in April, May, and November.
- A: Is there a lot of rain in July?  
B: No, there isn't. There's just a little light rain called "garúa."

