

Enough and too

A

The position of **enough**

Enough goes after adjectives and adverbs:

- He didn't get the job because he wasn't **experienced enough**. (*not enough experienced*)
- You won't pass the exam if you don't study **hard enough**.
- They can get married. They're **old enough**.

Compare **too** (**too hard / too old**, etc.):

- You never stop working. You work **too hard**. (= more than is necessary)

Enough usually goes *before* nouns:

- He didn't get the job because he didn't have **enough experience**. (*not experience enough*)
- Do you have **enough money**? I can lend you some if you don't.
- Some of us had to sit on the floor because there weren't **enough chairs**.

You can also use **enough** alone (without a noun):

- I'll lend you some money if you don't have **enough**.

Compare **too much / too many**:

- We can't take a vacation. It costs **too much** (money).
- There are **too many** people and not enough chairs.

B

We say "**enough/too . . . for somebody/something**":

- I have **enough money for a vacation**, but I don't have enough time.
- He wasn't **experienced enough for the job**.
- This shirt is **too big for me**. I need a smaller size.

But we usually say "**enough/too . . . to do something**" (*not for doing*). So we say:
enough money to buy something, too young to do something, etc.

For example:

- Do you have **enough money to take a vacation right now?** (*not for taking*)
- He wasn't **experienced enough to do the job**.
- She's not **old enough to get married**. *or* She's **too young to get married**.
- Let's get a taxi. It's **too far to walk home from here**.
- There weren't **enough chairs for everyone to sit down**.
- They spoke **too quickly for us to understand**.

C

We say:

- The food was very hot. We couldn't eat it.
- and* The food was so hot that we couldn't eat it.
- but* The food was **too hot to eat**. (*without it*)

Some more examples like this:

- The wallet was **too big to put in my pocket**. (*not too big to put it*)
- These boxes are **too heavy to carry**. (*not too heavy to carry them*)
- The water wasn't **clean enough to swim in**.



Exercises

100.1 Complete these sentences using *enough* with one of the following adjectives or nouns:

adjectives: big old qualified warm well

nouns: cups milk money room time

1. She shouldn't get married yet. She's not *old enough* _____.
2. I'd like to buy a car, but I don't have _____.
3. Do you have _____ in your coffee, or would you like some more?
4. Are you _____? Or should I turn up the heat?
5. It's only a small car. There isn't _____ for all of you.
6. Steve didn't feel _____ to go to work this morning.
7. I didn't answer all the questions on the test. I didn't have _____.
8. Do you think I am _____ to apply for the job?
9. Try this jacket on and see if it's _____ for you.
10. There weren't _____ for everybody to have coffee at the same time.

100.2 Complete the answers to the questions. Use *too* or *enough* with the word in parentheses.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Is she going to get married? | (old) No, she's not <i>old enough to get married</i> _____. |
| 2. I need to talk to you about something. | (busy) Sorry, but I'm _____ to you now. |
| 3. Why don't we sit outside? | (warm) It's not _____ outside. |
| 4. Would you like to be a politician? | (shy) No, I'm _____ a politician. |
| 5. Do you want to play tennis today? | (energy) No, I don't have _____ tennis today. |
| 6. Did you hear what he was saying? | (far away) No, we were _____ what he was saying. |
| 7. Can he read a newspaper in English? | (English) No, he doesn't know _____ a newspaper. |

100.3 Make one sentence from two. Complete the new sentence using *too* or *enough*.

1. We couldn't eat the food. It was too hot.
The food was *too hot to eat* _____.
2. I can't drink this coffee. It's too hot.
This coffee is _____.
3. Nobody could move the piano. It was too heavy.
The piano _____.
4. I don't wear this coat in the winter. It isn't warm enough.
This coat _____.
5. I can't explain the situation. It is too complicated.
The situation _____.
6. Three people can't sit on this sofa. It isn't wide enough.
This sofa _____.
7. We couldn't climb over the wall. It was too high.
The wall _____.
8. You can't see some things without a microscope. They are too small.
Some _____.