

TOO AND ENOUGH

Too.—An adverb of excess; with *to* + infinitive and/or *for* + (pronoun)

This soup is very hot; I can't drink it.
This soup is too hot for me to drink.¹

That's a lot of money; a book like that shouldn't cost so much.
That's too much money for a book like that.

* Remake these sentences, using *too*:

- 1 It's very cold; we can't go out.
- 2 This book is very difficult; I can't read it.
- 3 It's very far; we can't walk.
- 4 He's very stupid; he can't understand.
- 5 This mountain is very high; we can't climb it.
- 6 It's very good; it can't be true.
- 7 It's very dark; I can't see anything.
- 8 This dress is very old; I can't wear it any more.
- 9 This grammar is very difficult; a child can't understand it.
- 10 The music is very soft; we can't hear it.

Enough.—Whereas *too* has a negative sense, *enough*, also with infinitive, has a positive sense.

Compare: He is too ill to need a doctor. = He is so ill that it is useless to send a doctor.

He is ill enough to need a doctor. = He is so ill that we must send a doctor at once.

Enough comes in front of a noun and after an adjective or adverb.

* Reword the following, using *enough* to:

- 1 You are quite clever; you understand perfectly.
- 2 You are quite old now; you ought to know better.
- 3 I am very tired; I can sleep all night.
- 4 Are you very tall? Can you reach that picture?
- 5 The fruit is ripe; we can pick it.
- 6 The story is short; we can read it in one lesson.
- 7 The moon is very bright; I can read a book by it.
- 8 The wind is very strong; it will blow the roof off.
- 9 That man is quite stupid; he believes me.
- 10 I have enough money; I can pay the bill.

¹Expect the mistake: "This soup is too hot for me to drink it". The infinitive, even of a transitive verb, has no object if this would represent the same person or thing as the subject of the main verb, *be seem*, etc).