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<https://pucspel.online>
spelonline@puc.edu.kh
PUC South Campus

Grammar Reference

1. > 'As much as' - 'As many as'

- In expressions of **comparative equality**, '**as much . . . as**' is used with **singular** (uncountable) and '**as many . . . as**' with **plural** (countable) **nouns**.

Example: I bought **as much** chocolate **as** I could.
There aren't **as many** parks in Paris **as** in London.

Note. The corresponding **negative forms** are '**not as much . . . as**' and '**not as many . . . as**.'

Example: I **don't** have **as much** luck **as** you.
I **didn't** see **as many** movies **as** you did.

- '**As much as**' or '**as many as**' may be used without a noun. In such a case, the comparative refers either to the entire preceding clause or to an implied or previously stated noun.

Example: I hate marzipan **as much as** I love ginger.
Do you want more candies? You didn't have **as many as** I did.
It's twice **as much as** the rent.
(= *It's twice **as much** money **as** the rent.*)

- '**As much . . . as**,' '**as many . . . as**,' '**as much as**' and '**as many as**' may be preceded by quantifying **adverbs**.

Example: Today there are **three times as many** people in the streets **as** yesterday.
I worked **twice as much as** usual.

- '**As much . . . as possible**' and '**as many . . . as possible**' are **superlatives**.

Example: We need **as much** help **as possible**.
I invited **as many** friends **as possible**.

2. More uses of the possessive

The **possessive** **'-s'**, although primarily used with nouns designating countries, groups, institutions, and living beings, is also commonly used with **dates** — expressed either as days of the week or as adverbs like 'today,' 'yesterday,' and 'year' — as well as with **durations** and **distances**.

Example:

dates	Sunday's weather
	tomorrow's flight
	next year's budget
durations	three weeks' vacation
distances	a hundred miles' drive

3. > 'For' - 'Since' - 'Ago'

A - **For** and **since** are often used after a **main clause** in the **present perfect**.

- **For** + **expression of length of time**

For is always followed by a **noun phrase**.

Example:

I've **lived** in Detroit **for five years**.

He's **been studying** at Stanford University **for two years**.

- **Since** + **point of departure** (precise moment)

Since introduces a noun phrase or a dependent clause indicating a **point of departure** (date for example).

When **since** is followed by a dependent clause, the **verb of the clause** is, according to the context, either in the **preterite** or the **present perfect**.

Example:

I've **been learning** English **since** I **was** eleven years old.

I **haven't talked** to her **since** I've **been** back.

She's **been playing** the violin **since** 1987.

- B - Ago** is **preceded** by a **noun phrase** describing a **point in time**.

The verb of the sentence is in the **preterite**.

Example:

The couple **met two years ago**.

He **arrived three hours ago**.