A lot of / lots of / a lot

"A lot of" and "lots of" both mean a large number of people or things.

They are both used before countable and uncountable nouns.

Example:

Countable noun (people)

A lot of people went to the game.

Lots of people went to the game.

Uncountable nouns (things)

A lot of snow falls in winter.

Lots of snow falls in winter.

"a lot" means very often or very much.

It comes at the end of a sentence and never before a noun.

Example:

I like basketball a lot.

I don't go there a lot anymore.