

9.1 Countable and uncountable nouns

There are two types of nouns in English: countable and uncountable nouns.

- Countable nouns are things you can count, so they can be singular or plural. We use *a* or *an* with them.
a lemon → *two lemons* *an olive* → *lots of olives*
- Uncountable nouns are things you usually can't count. We don't use *a* or *an* with them and they are never plural.
rice NOT *a rice* *lots of bread* NOT *lots of breads*

Some nouns can be countable or uncountable, but the meaning is different.

We don't have time. (Time we measure using a clock.)

We went there four times last week. (We can count each visit.)

some/any

GR9.1)))

		Countable	Uncountable
(+)	I'd like	a pear. some pears.	some jam.
(-)	I don't want	an olive. any olives.	any bread.
(?)	Do you have	a lemon? any lemons?	any honey?

- We use *a/an* with singular countable nouns, e.g. *a lemon*.
- We use *some* with plural countable nouns or uncountable nouns in positive sentences, e.g. *some pears, some jam*.
- We use *any* with plural countable nouns or uncountable nouns in negative sentences and questions, e.g. *any olives, any bread*.
- We also use *some* in questions to ask for things or to offer something.

	Countable	Uncountable
Would you like	some noodles?	some coffee?
Can I have	some eggs?	some cake?

Drinks are usually uncountable. We say *I'd like some tea*. But we often say *a tea* as a quick way of saying *a cup of tea*. Also, *two coffees* (= two cups of coffee), *three orange juices* (= three glasses of orange juice), etc.

- Cross out the word that is NOT possible.
 - I'd like *some chicken* / *a pear* / ~~*any meat*~~.
 - I don't have *a banana* / *a lemon* / *a milk*.
 - Is there any *coffee* / *olives* / *honey*?
 - Are there any *pasta* / *pears* / *eggs*?
 - Can I have some *knives* / *spoon* / *forks*?
 - Would you like some *salad* / *breads* / *mushrooms*?
 - She doesn't have a *money* / *glass* / *plate*.
 - There isn't any *coffee* / *vegetable* / *fruit*.
 - There are four bottles of *oranges* / *water* / *milk*.
 - He's got a *pear* / *biscuit* / *apples* in his pocket.

- Complete the sentences using *some, any, a* or *an*.
 - I'd like some honey, please.
 - Can I have _____ eggs, please?
 - Is there _____ milk?
 - We don't have _____ meat.
 - There aren't _____ mushrooms.
 - Are there _____ vegetables?
 - Does he have _____ drink?
 - She doesn't have _____ money.
 - Would you like _____ noodles?
 - There isn't _____ restaurant near here.

- Complete the sentences with *two, a* or *an*.
 - I'd like two teas and _____ coffee, please.
 - A** Would you like _____ coke?
B No, thanks, but I'd love _____ apple juice.
 - Can I have _____ coffees please, with milk?
 - _____ black teas, please, and _____ glass of water.
 - I usually have _____ coffee before breakfast.

- Complete the message that Alia left for her flatmate. Use *some, any, a* or *an*.

Can you buy ¹ some food for dinner tonight? There's ² _____ beef in the fridge, but we don't have ³ _____ vegetables. Can you get ⁴ _____ sweetcorn and tomatoes? I'd also like ⁵ _____ salad. Do we have ⁶ _____ potatoes? Can you check, please? Can you also buy ⁷ _____ nice big salad bowl? We only have a small one. I left ⁸ _____ money next to the kettle.

Thanks!
Alia

9.2 Quantifiers – much/many/a lot of

GR9.2a)))

- 1 I have **a lot of** books on my shelf.
- 2 She eats **quite a lot of** rice.
- 3 They drink **lots of** water.
- 4 I don't have **much** coffee.
- 5 We don't have **many** tomatoes.

- In positive sentences we usually use *a lot of/lots of* for both countable and uncountable nouns to talk about a big quantity.
- We use *quite a lot of* to talk about a medium quantity.
He has quite a lot of clothes. NOT ~~*He has quite lots of clothes.*~~
- In negative sentences we usually use *much* with uncountable nouns and *many* with plural countable nouns.
I don't have much coffee. (= I only have a small quantity)
They don't have many lemons. (= They have some, but not a lot)
- We can also use *a lot of* or *lots of* in negative sentences for both countable and uncountable nouns.
I don't have a lot of/lots of time.
We don't have a lot of/lots of tomatoes.

GR9.2b)))

- 1 **A** How many burgers can you eat? **B** Not many.
- 2 **A** How much bread do you eat? **B** I eat quite a lot of bread.

To ask questions about quantity, we use ...

- 1 *How many* with plural countable nouns.
- 2 *How much* with uncountable nouns.

Countable

How many books are there?	A lot/Lots.	There are a lot of/lots of books.
	Quite a lot.	There are quite a lot of books.
	Not many.	There aren't many books.
	None.	There aren't any books.

Uncountable

How much milk do you drink?	A lot/Lots.	I drink a lot/lots of milk.
	Quite a lot.	I drink quite a lot of milk.
	Not much.	I don't drink much milk.
	None.	I don't drink any milk.

We use *none* in a short answer, but we say *no* with a noun in a full sentence. We often use *no* in sentences with *there is/there are*.
There's no milk. OR *There isn't any milk.* NOT ~~*There's none milk.*~~
There are no potatoes. OR *There aren't any potatoes.*
NOT ~~*There are NONE.*~~

1 Complete the sentences using *much*, *many* or *a lot of*.

- 1 How many glasses of water do you drink a day?
- 2 I didn't drink _____ water yesterday.
- 3 How _____ milk is there in the fridge?
- 4 There's quite _____ milk.
- 5 How _____ apples did you eat?
- 6 I didn't eat _____ apples.
- 7 How _____ time did you spend in the café yesterday?
- 8 How _____ times did you go back to the same café?
- 9 I like to drink _____ tea every day.
- 10 How _____ people are there in this class?
- 11 There's not _____ juice in my glass.
- 12 I ate _____ noodles last night.

2 Rewrite the sentences using *no*.

- 1 There isn't any yoghurt. *There's no yoghurt.* _____
- 2 There aren't any tomatoes. _____
- 3 We don't have any money. _____
- 4 There isn't a living room in my house. _____
- 5 There isn't any water in the bath. _____

3 Complete the conversation using *much*, *many*, *a lot*, *no* and *none*.

- Anas** Excuse me. I'm doing some research. Can I ask you some questions?
- Berna** Yes, OK.
- Anas** How ¹ many hours do you spend sleeping?
- Berna** Oh not ² _____. About five hours a night. I'm always tired!
- Anas** How ³ _____ time do you think you spend eating and drinking?
- Berna** Hmm quite ⁴ _____! About two hours a day. And, I spend ⁵ _____ of time cooking.
- Anas** Thank you. OK, next question. How ⁶ _____ kilometres do you drive every day?
- Berna** ⁷ _____. I don't drive.
- Anas** Do you work?
- Berna** Yes, I do.
- Anas** How ⁸ _____ hours a week do you work?
- Berna** About 50.
- Anas** And how ⁹ _____ time do you spend surfing the internet every day?
- Berna** Not ¹⁰ _____. There's ¹¹ _____ internet at my house. So, I think about 30 minutes a day at work. How ¹² _____ questions are you going to ask me? I don't have ¹³ _____ time.
- Anas** Just one more. How ¹⁴ _____ hours of television do you watch in a week?
- Berna** Quite ¹⁵ _____. I usually watch about two hours every day. I love TV.
- Anas** That's all. Thank you very much.