

Unit 4

4.1 Expressions of quantity

Count and uncount nouns

- 1 It is important to understand the difference between count and uncount nouns.

Count nouns	Uncount nouns
a cup	water
a girl	sugar
an apple	milk
an egg	music
a pound	money

We can say *three cups, two girls, ten pounds*. We can count them. We cannot say *two waters, three musics, one money*. We cannot count them.

- 2 Count nouns can be singular or plural.
This **cup** is full.
These **cups** are empty.
Uncount nouns can only be singular.
The **water** is cold.
The **weather** was terrible.

much and many

- 1 We use *much* with uncount nouns in questions and negatives.
How **much money** have you got?
There isn't **much milk** left.
- 2 We use *many* with count nouns in questions and negatives.
How **many people** were at the meeting?
I didn't take **many photos** on holiday.

some and any

- 1 *Some* is used in positive sentences.
I'd like **some sugar**.
- 2 *Any* is used in questions and negatives.
Is there **any sugar** in this tea?
Have you got **any brothers and sisters**?
We don't have **any washing-up liquid**.
I didn't buy **any apples**.
- 3 We use *some* in questions that are requests or offers.
Can I have **some cake**?
Would you like **some tea**?
- 4 The rules are the same for the compounds *someone, anything, anybody, somewhere, etc.*
I've got **something** for you.
Hello? Is **anybody** here?
There isn't **anywhere** to go in my town.

a few and a little

- 1 We use *a few* with count nouns.
There are **a few cigarettes** left, but not many.
- 2 We use *a little* with uncount nouns.
Can you give me **a little help**?

a lot/lots of

- 1 We use *a lot/lots of* with both count and uncount nouns.
There's **a lot of butter**.
I've got **lots of friends**.
- 2 *A lot/lots of* can be used in questions and negatives.
Are there **lots of tourists** in your country?
There isn't **a lot of butter**, but there's enough.

4.2 Articles - a and the

- 1 The indefinite article *a* or *an* is used with singular, countable nouns to refer to a thing or an idea for the first time.
We have **a Toyota** and **a BMW**.
There's **a supermarket** in Adam Street.
- 2 The definite article *the* is used with singular and plural, countable and uncountable nouns when both the speaker and the listener know the thing or idea already.
We have a Toyota and a BMW. I drive **the Toyota** and **my wife** drives **the BMW**.
I'm going to **the supermarket**. Do you want anything? (We both know which supermarket.)

Indefinite article

The indefinite article is used:

- 1 with professions.
I'm **a teacher**.
She's **an architect**.
- 2 with some expressions of quantity.
a pair of a little a couple of a few
- 3 in exclamations with *what* + a count noun.
What a lovely day!
What a pity!

Definite article

The definite article is used:

- 1 before seas, rivers, hotels, theatres, museums, and newspapers.
the Atlantic the British Museum
The Times the Ritz
- 2 if there is only one of something.
the sun the Queen the Government
- 3 with superlative adjectives.
He's **the richest man** in the world.
Jane's **the oldest** in the class.

No article

There is no article:

- 1 before plural and uncountable nouns when talking about things in general.
I like **potatoes**.
Milk is good for you.
- 2 before countries, towns, streets, languages, magazines, meals, airports, stations, and mountains.
I had lunch with **John**.
I bought a newspaper at **Heathrow Airport**.
- 3 before some places and with some forms of transport.

at home	in/to bed	at/to work	at/to school/university
by bus	by plane	by car	by train
			on foot

She goes to work **by bus**.

I was at home **yesterday evening**.

- 4 in exclamations with *what* + an uncount noun.
What beautiful weather!
What loud music!

Note

In the phrase *go home*, there is no article and no preposition.
I went **home** early. NOT ~~I went to home~~.

GRAMMAR SPOT

- 1 Find seven count nouns (CNs) and four uncount nouns (UNs) in the conversation.
- 2 Tick (✓) the correct columns.

We use ...	with CNs	with UNs	in positive sentences	in questions	in negative sentences
some	✓	✓	✓	✓ (sometimes)	X
any	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
much	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
many	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
a lot/lots of	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
a few	✓	X	✓		
a little	✓	✓	✓		

- 3 Look at the forms of *something/someone*, etc. The rules are the same as for *some* and *any*. Find two examples in the conversation in exercise 3.

some		thing
any	+	one/body
		where

PRACTICE

Discussing grammar

1 Complete the sentences with *some* or *any*.

- 1 Have you got any brothers or sisters?
- 2 We don't need any olive oil.
- 3 Here are some letters for you.
- 4 I need some money.
- 5 Is there any petrol in the car?

2 Complete the sentences with *much* or *many*.

- 1 Have you got much homework?
- 2 We don't need many eggs. Just half a dozen.
- 3 Is there much traffic in your city?
- 4 I don't know many students in this class.
- 5 How many people live in your house?

3 Complete the sentences with *a little*, *a few*, or *a lot of*.

- 1 I have a few close friends. Two or three.
- 2 He has a lot of money. He's a millionaire.
- 3 'Do you take sugar in coffee?' 'Just a little. Half a spoonful.'
- 4 'Have you got a lot of CDs?' 'Hundreds.'
- 5 I'll be ready in a few minutes.
- 6 She speaks good French, but only a little Arabic.

something/someone/somewhere

5 Complete the sentences with the correct word.

some	+	thing
any		one/body
every		where
no		

1 'Did you meet anyone interesting at the conference?'

'Yes. I met someone who knows you!'

2 'Ouch! There's something in my eye!'

'Let me look. No, I can't see anything.'

3 'Let's go somewhere exciting for our holidays.'

'But we can't go anywhere that's too expensive.'

4 'I'm so unhappy. Nobody loves me.'

'I know somebody who loves you. Me.'

5 I lost my glasses. I looked everywhere, but I couldn't find them.

6 'Did you buy anything at the shops?'

'No, nothing. I didn't have any money.'

7 I'm bored. I want something interesting to read, or something interesting to talk to, or somewhere interesting to go.

8 It was a great film. Everyone loved it.

T 4.3 Listen and check.

EVERYDAY ENGLISH

Prices and shopping

- 1 Look at the way we write and say prices in British and American English. Practise saying them.

British English		American English	
Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken
£1	a pound	\$1	a dollar
50p	fifty p	50¢	fifty cents
£1.99	one pound ninety-nine	25¢	a quarter
£16.40	sixteen pounds forty	10¢	a dime

T 4.6 Listen to the conversations and write the numbers you hear.

- 2 What's the exchange rate between sterling/US dollars and your currency?

There are about five ... to the dollar.

In your country, how much is ... ?

- a pair of jeans
- a packet of cigarettes
- a burger
- a litre of petrol

