

Unit 4/Let's go shopping!

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 party?

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 cat** and **a dog**.
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 cat and a dog. **The cat** is old, but **the dog** is just a puppy.
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, pubs, 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 *Cosmopolitan* at Paddington Station.

- 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.~~