

Some, any, many and much: quantifying in English

We are going to learn how to talk about quantities in English. First of all, we need to know there are two types of nouns in English: countable and uncountable. Let's do an activity to remember them:

Look at the examples:

One doll



Two dolls



One ball



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Two balls



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~~One chocolate~~
One BAR of chocolate



~~Two chocolates~~
Two BARS of chocolate



~~One water~~
One BOTTLE OF WATER



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~~Two waters~~
Two BOTTLES OF WATER



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Now circle the word to complete the sentences:

- Words like doll and ball are **countable/uncountable** , because they can be counted using numbers without the help of other words.
- Words like chocolate and water are **countable/uncountable** , because they can't be counted using numbers, unless we use other measurements words to help.

Sometimes, though, we don't want to say an exact quantity. That's when we use words like some, any, many and much. Look at the sentences and the examples:

We need to buy **some** dolls for christmas gifts.



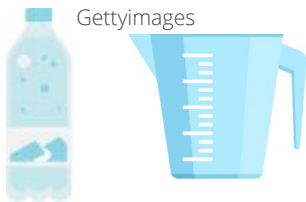
(How many dolls exactly?
We don't know!)

I don't have **any** balls to play at home.



(**ANY** frequently means zero, no quantity)

Can you get me **some** water, please?



(How much water exactly?
We don't know!)

Is there **any** chocolate in the fridge?



(**Any** also mean an indefinite quantity, but when the speaker thinks it is small or zero)

Now, based on the sentences you just read, circle the words to complete the statements:

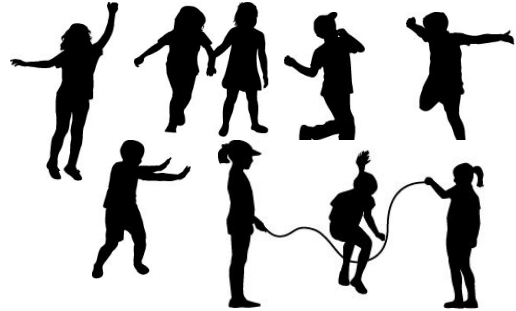
- We can use some and any with **countable/uncountable/both countable and uncountable** nouns.
- We can use some in **affirmative/negative/interrogative** sentences.
- We can use any in **affirmative/negative/interrogative** sentences.

Now let's talk about **many** and **much**. They both are used to talk about a LARGE quantity of something. Let's check the examples:

I have **many** toys.



There were **many** people at the event.



He drinks too **much** water.



How **much** chocolate do you need for the cake?



Now, circle the word to complete the sentences:

- We use MANY to talk about large quantities of **countable/uncountable** nouns.
- We use MUCH to talk about large quantities of **countable/uncountable** nouns.