

## Unit 22 Countable and uncountable; a, some, any, no

*Oxford Living Grammar* explains how grammar works and when to use it. This lesson consolidates students' knowledge of countable and uncountable nouns with the opportunity to practise the grammar in the everyday context of 'shopping'.

**Lesson length:** 45 mins

- Aim:**
1. to review a/some/any/no.
  2. to review much/many/a lot of.
  3. to practise countable/uncountable nouns.

**Preparation:**

- You will need a copy of:
- Activity worksheet: I can buy food in a shop
  - Activity worksheet: Countable and uncountable
  - Activity worksheet: Buying food in a delicatessen

Draw the food items from **Activity worksheet: I can buy food in a shop** on the board or on flash cards

**Grammar Review:**

- Show items of food (real objects OR flash cards OR board drawings)
- Ask the class to name them
- Ask: "can I make it plural?"
- **DISCUSS COUNTABILITY**
- Write on the board: a/some/a lot of any/no much/many
- Take word group 1 (a/some/ a lot of ) and say: "I've got a biscuit / I've got some biscuits / I've got a lot of biscuits".
- Ask students to hold up objects in the same way, repeating the 3 patterns.
- Take word group 2 (any/no ) and say: "Have you got any biscuits" / "No, I've got no biscuits left".
- Ask a student to put the same question (but changing the word 'biscuit'); the same student chooses another to reply, using the "No, I've got no..." structure.
- Take word group 3 (much/many) and say: "There isn't much sugar left./ There aren't many biscuits left."
- Hold up some objects and ask students to try out these same phrases
- **DISCUSS COUNTABILITY and UNCOUNTABILITY** (see *Oxford Living Grammar Elementary* Unit 22)

**1. Review Activity: Countable and uncountable**

Split the group into pairs

Hand out **Activity worksheet: Countable and uncountable**

Ask the pairs to fill in the 4 columns in the following way:

Quantity word	Singular	Plural	Example
an	egg		Would you like an egg for breakfast
some		eggs	There are some eggs in the fridge
no	bread	(uncountable)	

## 2. Contextualized Activity: Buying food in a delicatessen

Explain to the class that having reviewed what they have learnt about countable and uncountable nouns, they are going to see how to use them in the real-life context of 'shopping'

**Ask: (to whole class)**

- What is a delicatessen?
- What can you buy?
- Which items are uncountable?
- Which items are countable?

Hand out Activity worksheet – **Buying food in a delicatessen.**

### Task Instructions:

- A.** In pairs, taking it in turns:
1. underline all the uncountable nouns
  2. underline all the countable nouns
  3. fill in the multiple choices
- CORRECT the answers with the class

### Then:

- B.** Ask one pair to read out the dialogue in full
- C.** Change partners and fill in the dialogue with different nouns (using words from *Oxford Word Skills*)
- D.** Ask several pairs to read out their different dialogues
- E.** Ask for volunteers to do a similar dialogue without looking at the script (this can be short or long)

### HOMEWORK

Ask the class to do the 'Over to you' activity as follows:

'Write out a phone message that you might leave with your husband/wife/friend, saying what you need from the supermarket. Use the phrases: 'We need some/a/an/a lot of/two etc. ...', and 'We haven't got much/many/any ...' with **countable** and **uncountable** food and drink words.'

### EXTRA HELP

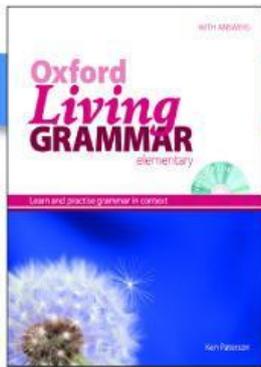
**Did your students remember the topic:** uncountable and countable nouns?  
(if not, revisit the presentation sections of unit 22 on pages 86 and 88)

**Did your students remember the use of much/many etc.?:** ask them to make lists of nouns (things that can be bought from any shops) and practise the collocations, collecting examples.

**Do your students need more practise.?:** try the exercises on p. 87 to teach typical contexts; try the exercises on p. 89 to go further and focus on a specific situation where grammar points are mingled.

**Have you got the right books to develop and extend vocabulary.?:** use units from *Oxford Word Skills* for 'I can...' confidence.





## Activity worksheet: Buying food in a delicatessen

### F Buying food in a delicatessen

Megan is in a delicatessen (a shop where you can buy good quality cheese, bread, meat, etc.) Add the correct words from the brackets.

**Megan** Hello! I'd like to buy some<sup>0</sup> (some/any) of the cold beef, please. It looks nice. How much is it?

**Man** It's £4.50 for \_\_\_\_\_<sup>1</sup> (some/a) kilo. The cooked prawns are good, too. I don't normally have \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup> (a lot of/much) prawns, but they're cheap at the moment.

**Megan** I'll have \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> (some/any) beef, please. Six slices will be fine. Have you got \_\_\_\_\_<sup>4</sup> (any/many) fresh pasta today?

**Man** Oh dear. We haven't got \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> (no/much) pasta today, I'm afraid. I've got \_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup> (some/any) delicious cheese from Wales, though, and \_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> (some/a) brown bread from a local farm.

**Megan** The bread looks nice, too. I'd like to buy \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> (any/some). Can I have \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> (a/some) loaf, please? And can I try \_\_\_\_\_<sup>10</sup> (much/some) cheese?

**Man** Of course you can. Is there anything else? I haven't got \_\_\_\_\_<sup>11</sup> (many/much) eggs today, I'm afraid - there are only two left.

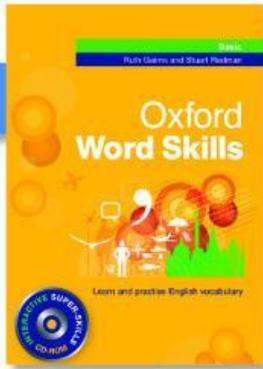
**Megan** Don't worry. The cheese is fantastic. I'm sure you sell \_\_\_\_\_<sup>12</sup> (a lot of/any) of it. Could you give me half a kilo, please?

**Man** Certainly. I'll give you \_\_\_\_\_<sup>13</sup> (a/any) bag to carry everything. Can I give you \_\_\_\_\_<sup>14</sup> (an/some) advice too? Make sure the cheese is warm when you eat it. It tastes much better!

Prawns are a type of seafood.

WORD  
FOCUS





**Activity worksheet:**  
**Buying food in a delicatessen**

**26** I can buy food in a shop

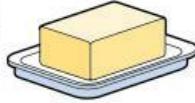
**A** Food



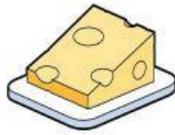
milk U



bread U



butter U



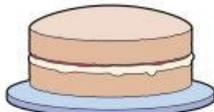
a piece of cheese U



eggs



sugar U



a cake



jam U



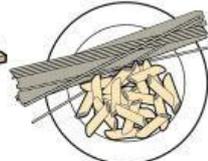
biscuits



olive oil U



rice U



pasta U



olives



noodles



a bar of chocolate U

**spotlight** **Uncountable nouns**  
The nouns with a U are usually uncountable:  
**butter** or **some butter** NOT *a butter/butters*  
*This bread is nice.* NOT *These breads are nice.*  
We can make uncountable nouns countable:  
**a piece of cheese** **a bar of chocolate**

**1** Tick (✓) the answers that are right, and correct the answers that are wrong.

- ▶ some oil ✓
- ▶ a milk ✗ *milk/some milk*
- 1 biscuits \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 a piece of cheese \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 a butter \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 cakes \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 a cheese \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 some sugar \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 eggs \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 a bread \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 pasta \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 rices \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 a jam \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 olives \_\_\_\_\_

**2** Complete the words.

- ▶ br e a d
- 1 mi \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 some ch \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 sug \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 bis \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 some olive \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 six e \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 but \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 ri \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 a large bar of \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 noo \_\_\_\_\_

**3** Test yourself. Cover the words and look at the pictures. Say the words.