ILLUSTRATED LESSON - ENGLISH 2AC - SEMESTER 1

Countable nouns, some, any, much and many

Use how many with plural countable nouns, such as apples, and how much with uncountable nouns, such as milk. Some is common in positive statements; any is common in questions and negatives. This English 2AC supermarket lesson explains the patterns, useful exceptions and containers so you can ask for quantities accurately.

Moroccan 2AC · Original English practice · Semester 1 - Updated 6 November 2026

By the end of this lesson, you can

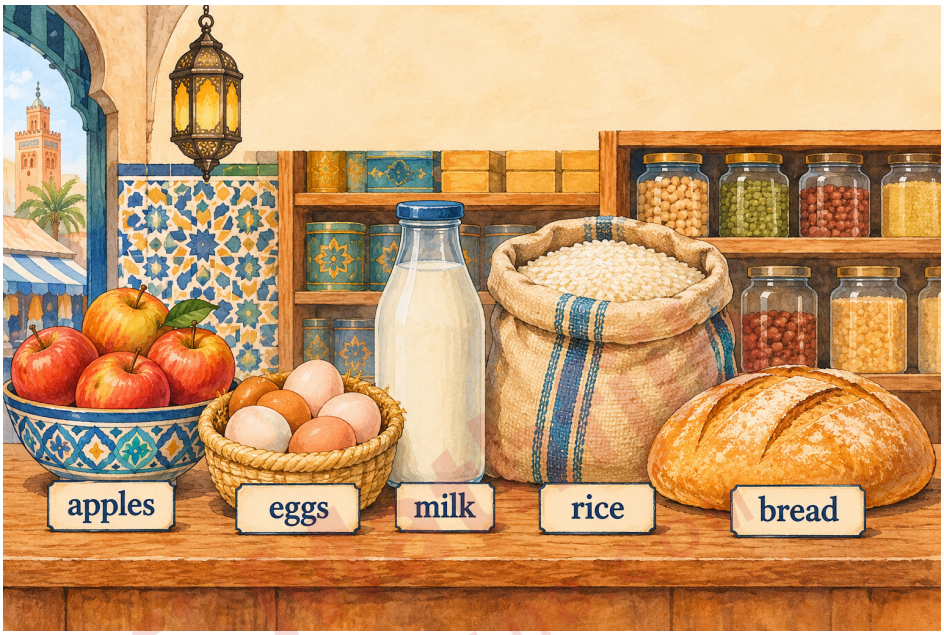
- Distinguish countable and uncountable uses
- Choose some or any from the sentence meaning
- Ask quantity and price questions

Before you start

Read short English sentences and familiar school vocabulary.

1. Start with the situation

Distinguish countable and uncountable uses. Choose some or any from the sentence meaning. Ask quantity and price questions.



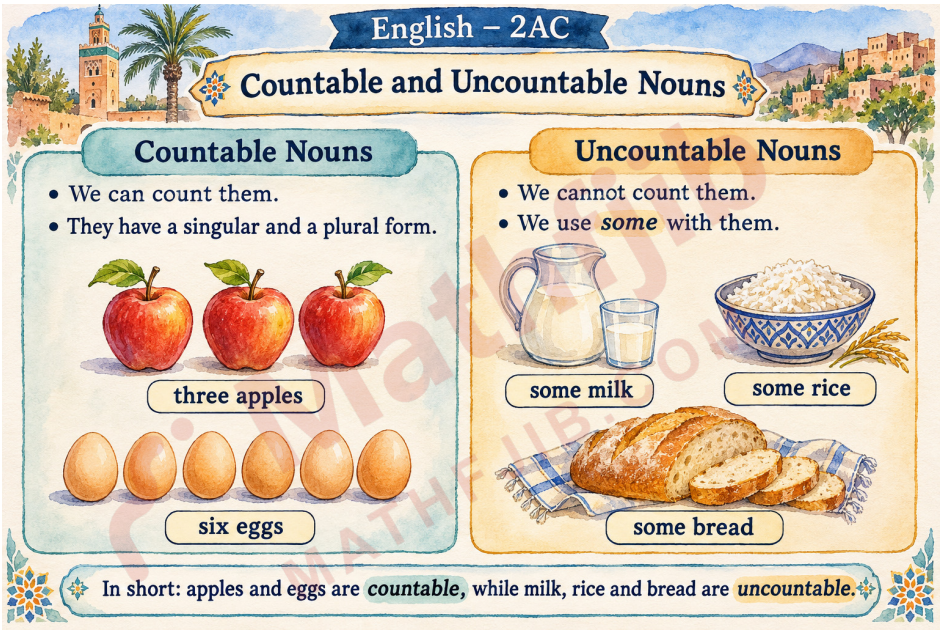
Compare the situation with the examples and explain your choice of form.

2. What can you count directly?

A countable noun can have a singular and plural form: an apple, two apples; an egg, six eggs. An uncountable noun names a substance or quantity without counting separate items in this use: milk, rice, bread, water. Say some bread rather than a bread in the ordinary food meaning. The category describes how a word is being used, so context matters.

A container or measure lets you count amounts of an uncountable food. Say two bottles of water, a bag of rice or three slices of bread. Bottles, bags and slices are countable, while water, rice and bread keep their uncountable use.

Compare How much water do we need? with How many bottles of water do we need? The noun immediately being counted changes the question.



How many + plural countable noun. How much + uncountable noun, or a price question.

3. How do some and any work?

In a positive statement, use some for an unspecified amount or number: We have some rice. There are some apples. In a negative statement, any commonly means none at all: We don't have any rice. There aren't any apples. In a neutral question, any asks whether something is available: Have we got any eggs?

Some also appears in offers and polite requests, where the speaker offers or asks for an expected amount: Would you like some water? Can I have some bread, please? Do not turn this into a mechanical positive-versus-question rule. Read the purpose of the question. An offer is different from asking whether there is any food left.

Food	Useful quantity	Question
apples	three apples	How many apples?
milk	a litre of milk	How much milk?
water	two bottles of water	How many bottles?
bread	three slices of bread	How much bread?

Check a shopping bag

There are some apples and a bottle of milk. There isn't any bread. We need two loaves of bread and a bag of rice.

- Apples and loaves are plural counts. Milk, bread and rice name food quantities. Loaf changes to loaves in the plural.

4. When do you choose much or many?

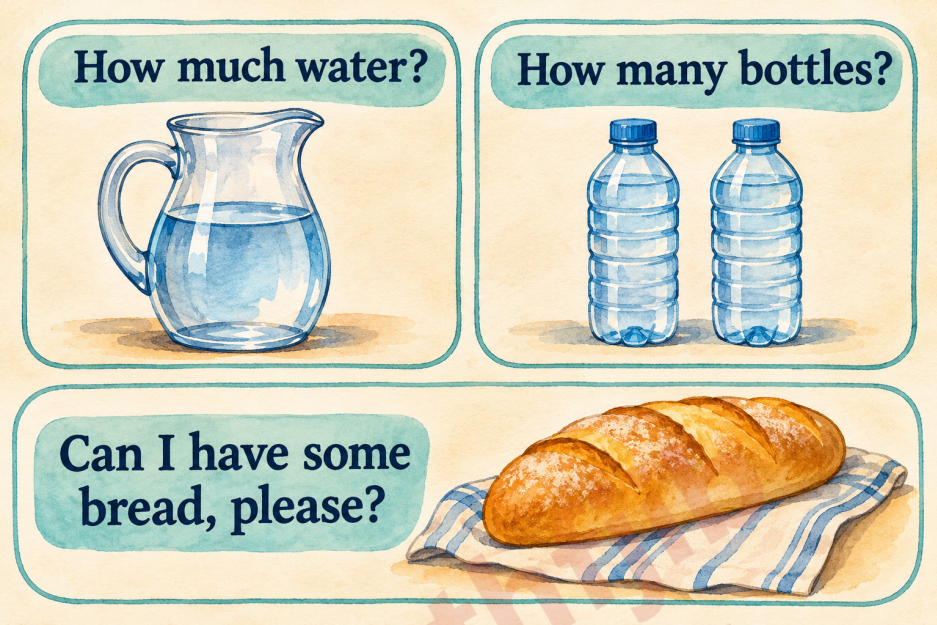
Use many with a plural countable noun: How many oranges are there? Use much with an uncountable noun: How much milk is there? A lot of works with both in ordinary positive statements: a lot of oranges, a lot of milk. It is often more natural than much in a simple positive food sentence.

How much can also ask a price: How much are these apples? This asks their cost, not their number. How many apples are there? asks the count. Use the answer to check the question: a quantity may be three apples or one litre; a price is an amount of money. Any prices in this practice are invented, rather than current supermarket prices.

5. A method you can reuse

Step by step: Work step by step

1. Find the noun being counted or measured.
2. Decide whether it is countable in this sentence.
3. Choose many or much, or use a container.
4. Read whether some/any belongs to a statement, availability question, offer or request.



Some is common in positives, offers and requests. Any is common in negatives and availability questions.

Remember

Bread is uncountable in its ordinary food meaning. Use a loaf of bread, two loaves or some bread. How much can ask a price even when the item itself is countable.

Key points

- How many + plural countable noun.
- How much + uncountable noun, or a price question.
- Some is common in positives, offers and requests.
- Any is common in negatives and availability questions.

Exercises - Try before checking

Write your answers in your notebook. Use the lesson and write complete sentences before you read the corrections.

Exercise 1. Sort the foods

Easy

Classify apples, milk, rice, eggs and bread in their usual food meanings.

Exercise 2. Choose much or many

Easy

Complete: How … eggs? How … water? How … bottles of water?

Exercise 3. Choose some or any

Intermediate

Complete: We have … rice. We don’t have … eggs. Have we got … apples?

Exercise 4. Make a polite request

Intermediate

Complete: Can I have … bread, please? Explain your choice.

Exercise 5. Quantity or price?

Intermediate

What do these ask: How many apples are there? How much are the apples?

Exercise 6. Write a shopping list

Challenge

Write a sentence with two countable foods and two measured uncountable foods.

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Explained answers to the exercises

Exercise 1. Sort the foods

Countable: apples and eggs. Uncountable: milk, rice and bread. A container can express a countable quantity of milk or rice.

Exercise 2. Choose much or many

How many eggs? How much water? How many bottles of water? The third question counts bottles.

Exercise 3. Choose some or any

Some rice; any eggs; any apples. These are a positive statement, negative statement and availability question.

Exercise 4. Make a polite request

Can I have some bread, please? Some is natural in a polite request for an amount of food.

Exercise 5. Quantity or price?

The first asks for their number. The second asks for their price. An answer to the second question needs money, rather than a count.

Exercise 6. Write a shopping list

One possible answer: We need six eggs, four apples, a bottle of milk and a bag of rice. Containers make the last two quantities clear.

Frequently asked questions

When do I use how much and how many?

Use how many with a plural countable noun and how much with an uncountable noun. How much can also ask a price.

Can some appear in a question?

Yes. It is natural in offers and requests: Would you like some water? Can I have some bread?

Is bread countable?

Bread is uncountable in the ordinary food use. Count loaves or slices: two loaves of bread, three slices of bread.

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Follow your teacher's sequence and instructions.
Find the lesson, the pictures and the activities online.

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