

The partitive

CHAPITRE 6

In English There are two types of nouns in English: count nouns and mass nouns. A count noun is something you can count, such as an apple or some books. When you use count nouns, you can refer to the whole item or to more than one of the item using the indefinite articles **a, an**, or the word **some**.

I would like **a** ham sandwich.

She borrowed **some** DVDs.

A mass noun is something you wouldn't usually count, such as water, tea, or sugar, so you don't use **a** or **an** with it. Instead, you can refer to a part of or some of the item using the words **some, some of**, or **any**.

May I have **some** milk?

Do you have **any** flour?

In some cases, you don't need to use an article in English.

He's buying cookies, flour, and tomatoes.

A Circle the nouns in the following sentences. Then check the appropriate column to indicate whether they are count nouns or mass nouns.

1. Bring us some water, please.
2. Does Casey have a car?
3. We don't have any milk.
4. She ate a large sandwich.
5. Marie brought some cheese.

Count	Mass
	✓

In French There are count nouns and mass nouns. You've already learned to refer to count nouns using the indefinite articles **un, une**, and **des**.

Je veux **un** croissant.

Vous voulez **des** œufs?

To say that you want *part of* or *some of* an item, use a **partitive article**. Partitive articles match the gender of the object. Use **du** with masculine singular nouns and **de la** with feminine singular nouns. If a noun begins with a vowel, use **de l'** whether it is feminine or masculine. With plural nouns, use **des**.

Tu veux **du** beurre? (*beurre* is masculine and singular)

Je veux **de la** confiture. (*confiture* is feminine and singular)

Elle veut **de l'**eau. (*eau* is a singular noun beginning with a vowel)

J'aimerais **des** céréales. (*céréales* is plural)

Unlike in English, in French you can't leave out the article.

Il prend **de la** tarte.

He's having pie.

THE PARTITIVE

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B Circle the nouns, then underline the articles in the following sentences. Then check the appropriate column to indicate whether they are partitive articles or indefinite articles.

1. Je veux du pain, s'il vous plaît.
2. Vous avez des pommes?
3. J'aimerais un croissant.
4. Tu veux du poivre?
5. Vous voulez de la glace?
6. Je mange des céréales.
7. Nous avons de la tarte.

Partitive	Indefinite
✓	

C Complete each sentence with **du, de la, de l', un, une, or des**.

1. J'achète _____ **des** _____ bananes.
2. Est-ce qu'il y a _____ jus de pomme?
3. Elle prend _____ tartine avec _____ confiture.
4. Vous prenez _____ beurre?
5. Tu veux _____ omelette?
6. J'aimerais _____ chocolat chaud.
7. Elle prend _____ toast ou _____ céréales.
8. Dans le jus, il y a _____ oranges _____ bananes.
9. J'aime manger _____ œufs et _____ bacon.

D Compare the following two sentences. What is the difference in meaning?

Il mange une tarte.

Il mange de la tarte.

The imperative

CHAPITRE 6

In English An **imperative** is a command, request, or strong suggestion to do (or not do) something. The imperative is formed by using the infinitive form of the verb without the word *to*. Notice that no subject is stated in imperatives.

Brush your teeth and **go** to bed.

Do the dishes, please.

Here, **take** one!

Please, **don't wake** her **up**!

A Decide whether each item is a statement (**S**) or an imperative (**I**).

1. Don't eat that! **I**
2. This is my little brother.
3. Have some pie.
4. Don't forget the milk!
5. Please pass the potatoes.
6. He is watching television again.
7. We don't need to wake up early.
8. Read this newspaper article.

In French The imperative is formed using the **tu**, **nous**, or **vous** form of the present tense of the verb, without the subject. With **-er** verbs, you drop the **-s** at the end of the **tu** form.

Tu regardes la télévision. → **Regarde** la télévision!

Tu vas au café. → **Va** au café.

Nous écoutons Paul. → **Écoutez** Paul.

Vous mangez de la glace. → **Mangez** de la glace!

If the verb isn't a regular **-er** verb, the spelling of the **tu** form doesn't change.

Tu fais tes devoirs. → **Fais** tes devoirs!

Vous finissez votre dîner. → **Finissez** votre dîner!

Nous attendons le bus. → **Attendons** le bus.

To make a command negative, put **ne** before the verb and **pas** after it.

Regarde la télé! → **Ne regarde pas** la télé!

THE IMPERATIVE

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B Decide whether each sentence is a statement or an imperative. Add a period to statements and an exclamation point to imperatives.

1. Écoute ce CD ____! ____
2. Prenez une pizza _____
3. On va au café _____
4. Ne choisis pas le porc _____
5. Nous faisons du ski _____
6. Allons au cinéma ce soir _____
7. J'ai envie de manger des légumes _____

C Complete each command with the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

1. Vous avez faim? _____ **Mangez** _____! (manger)
2. Tu veux t'amuser? _____ du vélo! (faire)
3. Allons au parc et _____ au volley! (jouer)
4. Tu aimes faire les magasins? _____ au centre commercial! (aller)
5. Vous voulez maigrir? _____ du sport! (faire)
6. Vous avez de la limonade? _____ -moi un verre, s'il vous plaît. (donner)

D Use the imperative to give your friend's little sister some advice based on her comments.

1. J'ai faim.
Prends un sandwich! _____
2. J'aime la musique.

3. Je voudrais faire du sport.

4. J'ai soif.

5. Je n'ai pas envie d'étudier.

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The partitive

- A**
1. Bring us some **water**, please. (mass)
 2. Does Casey have a **car**? (count)
 3. We don't have any **milk**. (mass)
 4. She ate a large **sandwich**. (count)
 5. Marie brought some **cheese**. (mass)
- B**
1. Je veux **du pain**, s'il vous plaît. (partitive)
 2. Vous avez **des pommes**? (indefinite)
 3. J'aimerais **un croissant**. (indefinite)
 4. Tu veux **du poivre**? (partitive)
 5. Vous voulez **de la glace**? (partitive)
 6. Je mange **des céréales**. (partitive)
 7. Nous avons **de la tarte**. (partitive)
- C**
1. J'achète **des** bananes.
 2. Est-ce qu'il y a **du** jus de pomme?
 3. Elle prend **une** tartine avec **de la** confiture.
 4. Vous prenez **du** beurre?
 5. Tu veux un peu **de l'**omelette?
 6. J'aimerais **un/du** chocolat chaud.
 7. Elle prend **un** toast ou **des** céréales.
 8. Dans le jus, il y a **des** oranges, **des** bananes.
 9. J'aime manger **des** œufs et **du** bacon.
- D** Answers will vary. Possible answers:
- Il mange une tarte** means that he eats the whole pie. **Il mange de la tarte** means that he eats some pie.

The imperative

- A**
1. Don't eat that! (I)
 2. This is my little brother. (S)
 3. Have some pie. (I)
 4. Don't forget the milk! (I)
 5. Please pass the potatoes. (I)
 6. He is watching television again. (S)
 7. We don't need to wake up early. (S)
 8. Read this newspaper article. (I)

- B**
1. Écoute ce CD!
 2. Prenez une pizza!
 3. On va au café.
 4. Ne choisis pas le porc!
 5. Nous faisons du ski.
 6. Allons au cinéma ce soir!
 7. J'ai envie de manger des légumes.
- C**
1. Vous avez faim? **Mangez**!
 2. Tu veux t'amuser? **Fais** du vélo!
 3. Allons au parc et **jouons** au volley!
 4. Tu aimes faire les magasins? **Va** au centre commercial!
 5. Vous voulez maigrir? **Faites** du sport!
 6. Vous avez de la limonade? **Donnez-** moi un verre, s'il vous plaît.
- D** Answers will vary. Possible answers:
1. **Prends un sandwich!**
 2. Écoute la radio!
 3. Joue au football!
 4. Bois de l'eau!
 5. Regarde la télé!