MASOMO YETU

ENGLISH STANDARD FOUR

TALKING ABOUT QUANTITY

Some • Many • Any • Much

Main Competence 1.0: Demonstrate mastery of basic English language skills.

Specific Competence 1.2: Use appropriate grammar and vocabulary both orally and in writing.

Sub-topic (a): Talking about quantity using some, many, any and much.

1. Introduction

Quantity words are words used to show the number or amount of people, animals, things or substances. In English, we use words such as **some, many, any** and **much** to talk about quantity.

• There are many pupils in the classroom.

• I have some exercise books.

• Do you have any sugar?

• There isn't much water in the tank.

To use these words correctly, we need to understand two types of nouns: countable nouns and uncountable nouns.

2. Countable Nouns

Countable nouns are nouns that we can count one by one. They have singular and plural forms. We can use numbers such as one, two, three and four with countable nouns.

Singular	Plural
Book	Books
Pen	Pens
Pencil	Pencils
Chair	Chairs
Desk	Desks
Mango	Mangoes
Orange	Oranges
Egg	Eggs
Cup	Cups
Plate	Plates
Bus	Buses
Box	Boxes
Child	Children
Man	Men
Woman	Women
Foot	Feet
Tooth	Teeth

Singular	Plural
Person	People

Examples in sentences:

• I have one book.

• There are five pupils in the group.

• My mother bought three mangoes.

• We saw two buses at the bus station.

• The classroom has many chairs.

Remember: Countable nouns can be singular or plural. We use numbers to count them.

3. Uncountable Nouns

Uncountable nouns are nouns that we do not normally count as separate individual units. We usually measure or describe their quantity. They do not normally have plural forms.

Uncountable noun	Example of measurement or container
Water	A glass of water
Milk	A bottle of milk
Rice	A bag of rice
Sugar	A spoonful of sugar
Salt	A packet of salt
Flour	A bag of flour
Oil	A litre of oil
Tea	A cup of tea
Sand	A bucket of sand
Air	A lot of air
Bread	A loaf of bread
Soap	A bar of soap
Money	Some money
Information	Some information
Furniture	Some furniture

Examples in sentences:

• I drink water every day.

• My mother buys rice at the market.

• There is some milk in the cup.

• We need sugar to make tea.

• The teacher gave us some information.

Remember: We do not normally say “two waters”, “three rices” or “many sugar”. We can count their containers or measurements, for example, two bottles of water, three bags of rice and two packets of sugar.

4. Talking About Quantity Using SOME

We use **some** with plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns. It is commonly used in positive sentences.

A. SOME with Countable Nouns

• I have some books.

• There are some pupils in the classroom.

• She bought some oranges at the market.

• We saw some goats near the school.

• The teacher has some pencils.

B. SOME with Uncountable Nouns

• There is some water in the bottle.

• My mother bought some rice.

• We need some sugar for tea.

• There is some milk in the cup.

• The shopkeeper has some cooking oil.

C. SOME in Offers and Requests

We can also use *some* when offering or requesting something.

• Would you like some tea?

• Can I have some water, please?

• Would you like some rice?

• Please give me some sugar.

5. Talking About Quantity Using MANY

We use **many** with plural countable nouns. It means a large number of people, animals or things.

• There are many pupils in our school.

• I have many exercise books.

• Many people visit the market.

• There are many buses at the bus station.

• Our teacher has many books.

• There are many patients at the hospital.

• We saw many birds in the trees.

• My father bought many oranges.

Using MANY in Questions

• How many pupils are in your class?

• How many books do you have?

• How many mangoes did your mother buy?

• How many teachers are at your school?

Remember: Use many with plural countable nouns. Correct: many books, many pupils, many mangoes, many chairs. Incorrect: many water, many rice, many sugar. For uncountable nouns, we normally use much instead of many.

6. Talking About Quantity Using ANY

We commonly use **any** in questions and negative sentences. It can be used with plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns.

A. ANY with Countable Nouns

Questions:

• Do you have any books?

• Are there any pupils in the classroom?

• Are there any mangoes in the basket?

• Do we have any eggs?

Negative sentences:

• I do not have any pencils.

• There aren't any chairs in the room.

• She doesn't have any oranges.

• We don't have any buses today.

B. ANY with Uncountable Nouns

Questions:

• Is there any water in the bottle?

• Do you have any sugar?

• Is there any milk in the fridge?

• Do we have any rice for lunch?

Negative sentences:

• There isn't any water in the tank.

• We don't have any sugar.

• She doesn't have any milk.

• There isn't any salt in the kitchen.

> **Remember:** Any is commonly used in questions and negative sentences.

7. Talking About Quantity Using MUCH

We use **much** with uncountable nouns. It refers to a large amount of something.

• How much water do you drink every day?

• How much sugar do we need?

• There isn't much milk in the bottle.

• We don't have much rice.

• How much money do you have?

• There isn't much oil in the container.

• How much flour does your mother need?

Using MUCH in Questions

We use *how much* to ask about the amount of something.

• How much water is in the bucket?

• How much milk do you drink?

• How much rice do we need?

• How much money does the book cost?

Using MUCH in Negative Sentences

• I don't have much money.

• There isn't much water in the tank.

• We don't have much sugar.

• She doesn't drink much milk.

> **Remember:** Much is normally used with uncountable nouns. Correct: much water, much rice, much sugar, much money. Incorrect: much books, much oranges, much pupils.

8. Comparison of SOME, MANY, ANY and MUCH

Quantity word	Countable nouns	Uncountable nouns
Some	Some books	Some water
Many	Many books	Not normally used
Any	Any books	Any water
Much	Not normally used	Much water

More examples:

• I have some books. — Some is used with plural countable nouns.

• I have some rice. — Some is used with uncountable nouns.

• There are many pupils. — Many is used with plural countable nouns.

• Do you have any pencils? — Any is used in a question.

• Is there any milk? — Any is used with an uncountable noun in a question.

• How much water do you need? — Much is used with an uncountable noun.

9. Classroom Activities

Activity 1: Identifying Countable and Uncountable Nouns

Teacher's activities

• A teacher to bring real objects such as books, pencils, cups, rice, sugar and water.

• A teacher to show pupils the objects one by one.

• A teacher to ask pupils which objects can be counted individually.

• A teacher to guide pupils to classify the objects into countable and uncountable nouns.

Pupils' activities

• Pupils to observe the objects.

• Pupils to name the objects.

• Pupils to group them into countable and uncountable nouns.

• Pupils to give more examples from their homes and school.

Activity 2: Using Quantity Words

Teacher's activities

• A teacher to display pictures of books, mangoes, water, rice and sugar.

• A teacher to write the words some, many, any and much on the board.

• A teacher to guide pupils to construct sentences using the words.

• A teacher to correct pupils' sentences where necessary.

Pupils' activities

• Pupils to observe the pictures.

• Pupils to identify the nouns.

• Pupils to construct sentences using quantity words.

• Pupils to read their sentences aloud.

Activity 3: Asking and Answering Questions

Teacher's activities

• A teacher to ask how many pupils are in the classroom.

• A teacher to ask whether pupils have any exercise books.

• A teacher to ask whether there is any water in their bottles.

• A teacher to ask how much rice pupils eat at home.

Pupils' activities

• Pupils to listen to the questions.

• Pupils to answer orally.

• Pupils to ask their classmates similar questions.

• Pupils to use appropriate quantity words in their answers.

10. Exercises

Exercise A: Classify the Nouns

Write each noun under the correct heading: Countable Nouns or Uncountable Nouns.

1. Water
2. Book
3. Rice
4. Mango
5. Sugar
6. Chair
7. Milk
8. Pencil
9. Flour
10. Orange
11. Salt
12. Egg
13. Money

14. Bus

15. Bread

Exercise B: Fill in the Blanks

Use **some, many, any** or **much** to complete the sentences.

1. There are _____ pupils in our classroom.

2. I have _____ exercise books.

3. Is there _____ water in the bottle?

4. We don't have _____ sugar.

5. My mother bought _____ oranges.

6. How _____ money do you need?

7. Are there _____ teachers at school?

8. There isn't _____ milk in the cup.

9. We have _____ rice for lunch.

10. There are _____ buses at the station.

11. Do you have _____ pencils?

12. How _____ salt do we need?

13. There aren't _____ chairs in the room.

14. She bought _____ cooking oil.

15. There are _____ patients at the hospital.

Exercise C: Choose the Correct Answer

1. There are (many/much) chairs in the room.

2. I need (some/many) water.

3. Do you have (any/much) pencils?

4. How (many/much) rice do you need?

5. She has (some/any) books.

6. There isn't (many/much) sugar.

7. Are there (any/some) pupils in the library?

8. We saw (many/much) cows at the farm.

9. There is (some/many) milk in the cup.

10. How (many/much) mangoes did you buy?

Exercise D: Correct the Mistakes

Rewrite the following sentences correctly.

1. There are much pupils in the class.

2. I have any books.

3. How many water do you drink?

4. There isn't many rice.

5. She bought much oranges.

6. We don't have some sugar.

7. How much chairs are in the room?

8. There is many milk in the bottle.

Exercise E: Construct Sentences

Construct one correct sentence using each of the following words:

1. Some

2. Many

3. Any

4. Much

Exercise F: Answer the Questions

1. What are countable nouns?

2. What are uncountable nouns?

3. Give four examples of countable nouns.

4. Give four examples of uncountable nouns.

5. Which quantity word is used with plural countable nouns to show a large number?

6. Which quantity word is commonly used with uncountable nouns to ask about an amount?

7. Write one sentence using some.

8. Write one question using any.

11. Answer Guide

Exercise A

Countable nouns: Book, mango, chair, pencil, orange, egg and bus.

Uncountable nouns: Water, rice, sugar, milk, flour, salt, money and bread.

Exercise B

1. Many

2. Some

3. Any

4. Any

5. Some

6. Much

7. Any

8. Much

9. Some

10. Many

11. Any

12. Much

13. Any

14. Some

15. Many

Exercise C

1. Many
2. Some
3. Any
4. Much
5. Some
6. Much
7. Any
8. Many
9. Some
10. Many

Exercise D

1. There are many pupils in the class.
2. I have some books.
3. How much water do you drink?
4. There isn't much rice.
5. She bought many oranges.
6. We don't have any sugar.
7. How many chairs are in the room?
8. There is much milk in the bottle.

Exercise E

Pupils' answers may vary. The teacher should check whether each quantity word is used correctly.

Exercise F

1. Countable nouns are nouns that we can count one by one.
2. Uncountable nouns are nouns that we do not normally count individually.
3. Examples: books, mangoes, chairs and pencils.
4. Examples: water, rice, sugar and milk.
5. Many.
6. Much.
7. Example: I have some books.
8. Example: Do you have any pencils.

12. Assessment Criteria

A pupil should be able to:

• Identify countable nouns and uncountable nouns.

• Give examples of countable and uncountable nouns.

• Explain the uses of some, many, any and much.

• Select appropriate quantity words when completing sentences.

• Construct correct sentences using quantity words.

• Use quantity words appropriately in oral communication.

13. Support for Slow Learners

• Use real objects such as pencils, books, cups of water and rice.

• Begin with simple examples and repeat them several times.

• Provide sentence patterns for pupils to complete.

• Pair slow learners with pupils who understand the topic.

• Give additional exercises involving familiar objects found at home and school.

• Use pictures and flashcards to reinforce understanding.

14. Teaching and Learning Resources

• Real objects: books, pencils, mangoes, rice, sugar and water.

• Flashcards showing different objects.

• Pictures and word charts.

• Blackboard and chalk.

• Exercise books.

• Containers for demonstrating measurements, such as bottles, cups and packets.

15. Teacher's Curriculum Checklist

By the end of the lesson, a teacher should check whether:

• A pupil can distinguish countable and uncountable nouns.

• A pupil can give examples of countable nouns.

• A pupil can give examples of uncountable nouns.

• A pupil can use some correctly.

• A pupil can use many correctly.

• A pupil can use any correctly.

• A pupil can use much correctly.

• A pupil can construct sentences about quantity orally and in writing.

These notes are supplementary teaching and learning materials prepared in line with the Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE) English syllabus for Standard Four. The examples, classroom activities and exercises are teacher-developed learning materials.