CAPITOLO

7

Food and Shopping

You can count apples, but you can't count rice: that small difference changes half the words you use in a shop.

OBIETTIVI

1. I can name common food and drink, containers and quantities, shops, and say prices in pounds and dollars.
2. I can tell countable from uncountable nouns and use *some, any, no, much, many, a lot of, a few, a little, too much, enough*.
3. I can choose between *a / an*, *the* and no article in everyday sentences.
4. I can order food in a café, buy things in a shop and ask about prices, using *would like* politely.
5. I can write a simple recipe with imperatives, quantities and sequencers.
6. I can talk about food traditions in the UK and the US and compare them with Italy.

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Food is one of the first things we notice in a new country. What do people have for breakfast? How do you ask for the bill? Giulia is discovering the answers in Bristol. In this unit you learn the words for food, containers, shops and money, and two essential pieces of grammar: the difference between things you can count (*an apple, two apples*) and things you can't (*bread, milk, money*), which decides whether you say *much* or *many*, *a few* or *a little*; and the article system, which tells you when English uses *a*, *the* or nothing at all. Then you order lunch at a café, go to the corner shop on Elm Road, cook an Italian dish in English and find out what a *full English* and *Thanksgiving* are.

7.1 Vocabulary: food, containers, shops and money

7.1.1 Food and drink

Tabella 7.1 groups some common food and drink words. Many of them look similar to Italian (*banana, pasta, chocolate*), but be careful with the pronunciation, and with a few false friends: in British English *biscuits* are *biscotti*, *crisps* are *patatine* in a packet, and *chips* are *patatine fritte*.

Tabella 7.1 Food and drink

Fruit and vegetables	Meat, fish, dairy and eggs	Bread, cereals and snacks	Drinks
an apple, a banana, a pear	chicken, beef, ham	bread, toast	water (still / sparkling)
an orange, grapes, strawberries	bacon, sausages	rice, pasta, flour	orange juice
a carrot, a potato, an onion	tuna, salmon	cereal	tea, coffee
a tomato, a pepper, mushrooms	milk, butter, cheese	biscuits (AmE *cookies*)	hot chocolate
lettuce, peas, beans	yoghurt, eggs	crisps (AmE *chips*), sweets (AmE *candy*)	fizzy drinks (AmE *soda*)

The main meals are *breakfast*, *lunch* and *dinner*; something small that you eat between meals is a *snack*. Food can be *sweet*, *salty*, *spicy* (*piccante*) or *bitter* (*amaro*), and *healthy* or *unhealthy*.

Pronunciation. Some food words have fewer syllables than you expect. *Vegetable* has three: /ˈvedʒtəbl/; *chocolate* has two: /ˈtʃɒklət/. In *biscuit* /ˈbɪskɪt/ the *u* is silent, *sausage* is /ˈsɒsɪdʒ/, and *yoghurt* starts with the sound of *yes*: /ˈjɒgət/.

7.1.2 Containers and quantities

When we go shopping we rarely buy "bread" or "milk" in general: we buy *a loaf of bread* or *a carton of milk*. A **container** *(ita: contenitore, confezione)* is the bottle, box or packet that holds the food. The pattern is always the same: **a / an + container + *of* + food**. Figura 7.1 shows the most common ones.

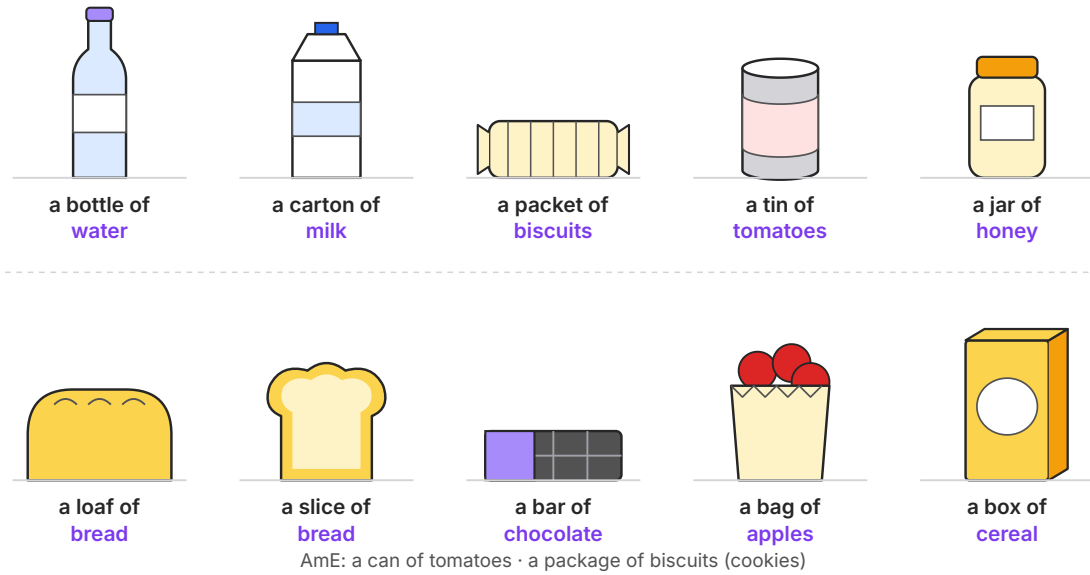


Figura 7.1 Containers and quantities: *a* + container + *of* + food. A *loaf* is bread baked in one piece; a *slice* is a thin piece cut from it. The plural of *loaf* is *loaves*.

Look at the details. A **carton** is made of thick paper or cardboard (milk, juice); a **tin** is made of metal (tomatoes, beans, soup; AmE *can*, and in Britain a drink also comes in *a can of cola*); a **jar** is glass with a lid (jam, honey); a **packet** is paper or plastic (crisps, biscuits). A **loaf** *(ita: pagnotta, pane in cassetta)* is bread baked in one piece, and a **slice** *(ita: fetta)* is a thin piece of it: *a slice of toast, a slice of pizza, a slice of cake*. Other useful quantities are *a cup of tea, a glass of water, a bowl of soup, a kilo of potatoes, 200 grams of cheese, half a dozen eggs* (six). In the plural, only the container changes: *two bottles of water*.

7.1.3 Shops and shopping

Many British shop names end in *'s*: *the baker's* is short for *the baker's shop*, the shop of the baker. You met *the chemist's* in Unit 4.

Tabella 7.2 Shops and what they sell

Shop	You can buy…	Shop	You can buy…
baker's	bread, cakes, rolls	newsagent's	newspapers, magazines, sweets
butcher's	meat, sausages	chemist's (AmE *drugstore*)	medicine, shampoo
greengrocer's	fruit, vegetables	corner shop (AmE *convenience store*)	a bit of everything: milk, bread, snacks
fishmonger's	fish	supermarket	almost everything
market	fresh food, clothes, second-hand things	bookshop (AmE *bookstore*)	books

In a shop, the *customer* buys and the *shop assistant* (AmE *sales clerk*) sells. You wait in a **queue** /kjuː/ *(ita: fila, coda)* (AmE *line*) and then you pay at the *till* or *checkout* (*cassa*). You pay *in cash* (*in contanti*) or *by card*, and you get your **change** *(ita: resto)* and a **receipt** /rɪˈsiːt/ *(ita: scontrino)*: the *p* is silent.

7.1.4 Money and prices

The money of the United Kingdom is the **pound** (£). One pound is one hundred **pence** (singular *penny*), written *p*. In the United States, one dollar ($) is one hundred *cents* (¢). The symbols £ and $ go **before** the number, *p* and ¢ go **after** it.

Tabella 7.3 Saying prices

Written	Said	Written	Said
£3.50	three pounds fifty	50p	fifty p /piː/ / fifty pence
£1.05	one pound five / a pound five	£12.99	twelve pounds ninety-nine / twelve ninety-nine
£20	twenty pounds	$2.99	two dollars ninety-nine / two ninety-nine
£1	one pound / a pound	25¢	twenty-five cents

To ask about prices, say *How much is this bag? — It's £3.50.* with a singular noun, and *How much are these apples? — They're £2 a kilo.* with a plural noun. For a total, ask *How much is that altogether?*. In informal British English a pound is a *quid*, with no *-s*: *It's five quid.*

DA RICORDARE

Write **£3.50** or **350p**, never ✗ *£3.50p* or ✗ *3.50£*. Say *three pounds fifty*, not ✗ *three pounds and fifty*. When the number is an adjective before a noun, *pound* has no *-s*: *a ten-**pound** note, a five-**pound** T-shirt* (but *It costs ten **pounds***).

APPROFONDIMENTO

Why £ and p? The symbol £ is an old capital L, from the Latin *libra*, a unit of weight: the first pounds were literally a pound of silver. Until 1971 British money was not decimal: one pound was twenty *shillings*, and one shilling was twelve old pennies, so a pound was 240 pence, and old pennies were written with a *d*, from the Latin *denarius*. On Decimal Day, 15 February 1971, the UK changed to the simple system of today: one pound = one hundred new pence.

7.2 Reading: What's on the plate?

Before you read. What do you usually have for breakfast, lunch and dinner? What time do you eat? What do you think a British family eats in a normal week?

Every month an exchange student writes the *Exchange Corner* page of the Hillside Academy magazine. This month it's Giulia's turn.

What's on the plate? An Italian in a British kitchen

People in Turin often ask me, "What do you eat in England? Is it terrible?" My answer is always the same: no, it isn't terrible at all. It's just different. So here is my guide to a week of food with the Taylor family.

Breakfast. In Italy I usually have a cappuccino and a brioche at the bar, standing up, in five minutes. Here, on weekdays, everybody has breakfast at home: a bowl of cereal with cold milk, or a couple of slices of toast with butter and jam. Sam drinks a glass of orange juice, and his mum, Helen, drinks a lot of tea — four or five cups a day, with milk! There isn't a coffee machine in the kitchen, only a **kettle** *(ita: bollitore)*. On Sundays, Mark sometimes cooks a full English breakfast: eggs, bacon, sausages, mushrooms, tomatoes, baked beans and toast. It's delicious, but it's a lot of food. After a full English, I don't need any lunch!

Lunch. At school you can buy a hot meal in the canteen or bring a *packed lunch* from home. I usually take a sandwich, an apple and a small bottle of water. Sam's packed lunch is famous in our class: a cheese sandwich, a packet of crisps, a chocolate bar... and no fruit at all. I've got some advice for him: eat a few vegetables, Sam!

Dinner. The Taylors have dinner at half past five. That's very early for me, so at nine o'clock I'm often hungry again and I eat a few biscuits in my room. Callum calls the evening meal "tea", like many people in Scotland and the north of England. Dinner here is usually one plate with

everything together: meat or fish, potatoes and two or three vegetables. In Italy we have pasta first and then the meat, on two different plates. Pasta is popular in Britain too, but here it's a main course, often with a lot of sauce and not much pasta. And some people put chicken on it!

Friday night. On Fridays nobody cooks. The family orders a **takeaway** *(ita: cibo da asporto)*: Indian, Chinese or pizza, but my favourite is fish and chips. You eat it from the paper with a little salt and vinegar, and there are always too many chips for me!

Shopping. Helen does a big shop at the supermarket once a week. For fresh bread and milk we go to the corner shop at the end of Elm Road. Nobody buys bread at a baker's every morning, like my grandmother in Turin.

Do I miss Italian food? Yes, of course. I miss real coffee and my dad's risotto. But British food is full of surprises, and I'm learning a lot. Now I want to cook for the Taylors: pasta al pomodoro, the Italian way. There is only one rule — no chicken!

Language in context. Giulia's article is full of quantities. Look at the containers (*a bowl of cereal, a couple of slices of toast, a glass of orange juice, a packet of crisps*) and at the quantifiers: *a lot of tea, a lot of food, a few vegetables, a few biscuits, not much pasta, too many chips, a little salt, no fruit*. Notice also that some nouns never have *a* or a plural, like *advice* (*some advice*, not ✗ *an advice*), and that general ideas have no article: *Pasta is popular in Britain*, *British food is full of surprises*. You study all of this in 7.3.

7.2.1 Media text: an advert

Giulia found this **advert** *(ita: pubblicità)* on a card on the table at the Green Teapot, the café where she and Sam often have lunch.

Media text — Advert: the Green Teapot

NEW at the Green Teapot!
The Weekend Breakfast Club · Saturdays and Sundays, 8.30–11.30
Hungry? Come and try our new breakfast menu: fresh fruit, warm pancakes with a little maple syrup, eggs from a local farm and our delicious hot chocolate.
Big Breakfast £7.50 · Pancake Stack £5.20 · Fruit and Yoghurt Bowl £3.90
Students: show your school card and get **a free orange juice** with any breakfast!
No time to sit down? Order online and take it away.
Fresh. Local. Made with love.

An advert wants to sell something, so every detail has a job. Look at the headline (short, with an exclamation mark), the question that speaks directly to the reader (*Hungry?*), the imperatives (*come, try, show, order*), the positive adjectives (*fresh, warm, local, delicious*), the special offer and the **slogan** at the end: three short phrases that are easy to remember. Remember also that

an advert gives **opinions** as if they were facts: is the hot chocolate really delicious? Only your taste can say.

7.3 Grammar: countable and uncountable nouns, quantifiers, articles, *would like*

7.3.1 Countable and uncountable nouns

English nouns belong to two big groups. **Countable nouns** are things we can count one by one: *an apple, two apples, three eggs, a sandwich, ten coins*. They have a singular and a plural, and in the singular they need *a / an* (or *the, my, this*...). **Uncountable nouns** are things we see as a mass or a substance, or as an idea, not as separate pieces: *bread, rice, milk, water, money, music*. They have no plural and never take *a / an*; the verb is always singular: *The rice **is** ready. Money **isn't** everything.* Figura 7.2 sums up the differences.

Liquids (*milk, water*) and masses of small pieces (*rice, sugar, salt*) are easy to recognise. Other uncountable nouns surprise Italian speakers, because their Italian translation is countable. Learn these by heart: *advice* (*consigli*), *information* (*informazioni*), *news* (*notizie*; it ends in *-s* but it is singular: *The news **is** good*), *furniture* (*mobili*), *homework* (*compiti*), *luggage* (*bagagli*). *Fruit* is normally uncountable too: *I eat a lot of fruit*, *a piece of fruit*.

To count an uncountable noun, put a countable word in front of it: a container (*a bottle of water*), a measure (*a kilo of sugar*) or the very useful **a piece of**: *a piece of cheese, a piece of advice, two pieces of information, a piece of furniture*. A few nouns can be both: *coffee* (the drink in general) / *a coffee* (= a cup of coffee: *Two coffees, please*).

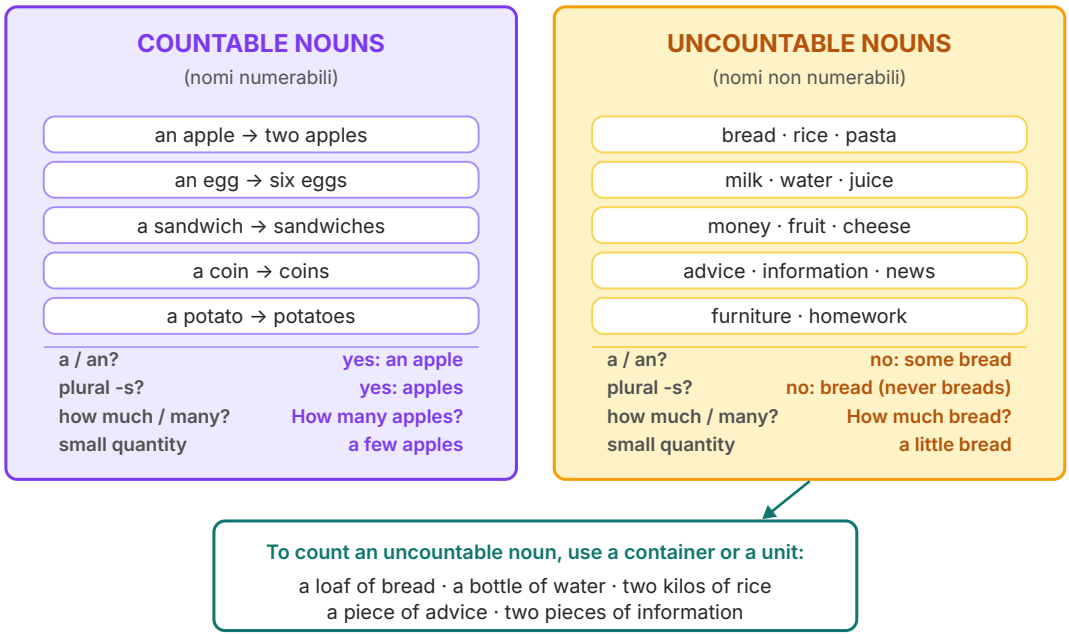


Figura 7.2 Countable and uncountable nouns: the two groups behave differently with *a / an*, plurals and quantifiers. An uncountable noun can be counted only through a container or a unit.

GRAMMAR IN ITALIANO

Nomi numerabili e non numerabili. I *countable nouns* (nomi numerabili) indicano cose che si contano: hanno singolare e plurale e al singolare vogliono l'articolo (*an egg, two eggs*). Gli *uncountable nouns* (nomi non numerabili) indicano sostanze, masse o concetti: non hanno plurale, non prendono mai *a / an* e vogliono il verbo al singolare (*The water is cold*).

Confronto con l'italiano. Anche l'italiano ha nomi "di massa" (*il latte, il riso*), ma molti nomi che per noi sono numerabili in inglese non lo sono: *advice, information, news, furniture, homework, luggage*. Quindi *un consiglio = a piece of advice*, *delle informazioni = some information*. Per contarli si usa un contenitore o un'unità: *due bottiglie d'acqua = two bottles of water*.

ERRORE FREQUENTE

I nomi non numerabili non hanno né *a / an* né plurale, e il verbo è singolare.

✗ *Can you give me some informations?* → ✓ *Can you give me some information?*

✗ *She gave me an advice.* → ✓ *She gave me some advice / a piece of advice.*

✗ *The news are bad.* → ✓ *The news is bad.*

✗ *I've got a lot of homeworks.* → ✓ *I've got a lot of homework.*

7.3.2 *Some, any* and *no*

In Unit 4 you met *some* and *any* with *there is / there are*. Here is the complete rule. We use them with plural countable nouns and with uncountable nouns when the exact quantity is not important.

- **some** in affirmative sentences: *There are some eggs in the fridge. I'd like some water.*
- **any** in negative sentences and in questions: *There aren't any eggs. Have we got any milk?*
- **some** in questions when we **offer** or **ask for** something and expect the answer *yes*: *Would you like some cake? Can I have some water, please?*
- **no** = *not any*, with an **affirmative** verb: *There's no milk* = *There isn't any milk*. *No* can also go before a singular countable noun: *There's no bus on Sundays.*

Tabella 7.4 *Some, any, no*

	Plural countable	Uncountable
Affirmative	We've got some apples.	There's some cheese.
Negative	We haven't got any apples. / We've got no apples.	There isn't any cheese. / There's no cheese.
Question	Have we got any apples?	Is there any cheese?
Offer / request	Would you like some grapes?	Can I have some cheese, please?

The same words build the **indefinite pronouns** *(ita: pronomi indefiniti)*: *something, anything, nothing* and the other words in the table below, with the same rules.

GRAMMAR IN ITALIANO

Some, any, no. *Some* corrisponde al partitivo italiano (*del, della, dei, delle, un po' di, alcuni*) e si usa nelle frasi affermative; *any* si usa nelle frasi negative e interrogative, e spesso in italiano non si traduce: *Hai del latte? / Hai latte?* = *Have you got any milk?*; *Non c'è pane* = *There isn't any bread*. Nelle offerte e nelle richieste cortesi si usa *some* anche nelle domande: *Vuoi della torta?* = *Would you like some cake?*

Attenzione: una sola negazione. In italiano la doppia negazione è normale (*Non c'è niente, Non ho nessun libro*); in inglese no. *No* e *nothing* vogliono il verbo affermativo: ✗ *There isn't no milk* → ✓ *There's no milk* / ✓ *There isn't any milk*; ✗ *I don't want nothing* → ✓ *I don't want anything* / ✓ *I want nothing*.

Indefinite pronouns: *somebody, anything, nowhere…*

We use indefinite pronouns for people, things and places that we don't name exactly. They are built like *some, any* and *no*, plus *every-* for "all":

	People	Things	Places	Use
some-	somebody / someone	something	somewhere	affirmative; offers and requests
any-	anybody / anyone	anything	anywhere	negatives and questions
no-	nobody / no one	nothing	nowhere	with an affirmative verb
every-	everybody / everyone	everything	everywhere	all the people, things, places

There's somebody at the door. · *Would you like something to drink?* · *Is there anything in the fridge?* · *I can't find my keys anywhere.* · *Nobody likes cold tea.* · *Everybody is here.* Three rules: (1) these pronouns take a **singular** verb: *Everybody **is** here*, *Nobody **knows***; (2) *no-* words are already negative, so the verb is affirmative: *I've got nothing to do* = *I haven't got anything to do*; (3) an adjective goes **after** them, with no *of*: *something sweet, somewhere quiet, nothing new*.

> **ERRORE FREQUENTE**
> **Pronomi indefiniti all'italiana.** *Tutti* in italiano vuole il plurale, *everybody* il singolare: ✗ *Everybody are happy* → ✓ *Everybody is happy*. Una sola negazione: ✗ *I don't know nobody* → ✓ *I don't know anybody* / ✓ *I know nobody*. E niente *di* davanti all'aggettivo: *qualcosa di dolce* = ✓ *something sweet*, non ✗ *something of sweet*.

7.3.3 *Much, many, a lot of; How much…? How many…?*

To talk about large quantities, English uses different words for the two kinds of noun.

- **many** + plural countable nouns, mainly in negatives and questions: *There aren't many tomatoes. How many eggs do we need?*
- **much** + uncountable nouns, mainly in negatives and questions: *I haven't got much time. How much sugar do you take?*
- **a lot of** / **lots of** (more informal) + both kinds, especially in affirmative sentences: *We eat a lot of pasta. There are lots of people in the queue.* At the end of a sentence, without a noun, use *a lot* without *of*: *Helen drinks tea a lot.* / *I like it a lot.*

In everyday affirmative sentences, *much* sounds very formal or unnatural: say *I eat a lot of fruit*, not ✗ *I eat much fruit*. Questions about quantity follow the same rule: **How many…?** with plural countable nouns (*How many apples would you like?*) and **How much…?** with uncountable nouns

(*How much milk is there?*). *How much…?* is also the question for prices (7.1.4), because money is uncountable: *How much money have you got?* (✗*How many money*).

GRAMMAR IN ITALIANO

Much, many, a lot of. In italiano diciamo *molto* con tutti i nomi (*molto pane, molte uova*); in inglese bisogna scegliere: *many* con i plurali numerabili (*many eggs*), *much* con i non numerabili (*much bread*). Entrambi si usano soprattutto nelle frasi negative e interrogative. Nelle affermative si preferisce *a lot of / lots of*, che va bene con entrambi i tipi di nome: *Mangio molta frutta = I eat a lot of fruit.*

Quanto…? = How much…? (non numerabili e prezzi); *Quanti…? = How many…?*

7.3.4 *A few, a little, few, little; too much, too many, enough*

For small quantities, again, there are two words: **a few** + plural countable nouns (*a few biscuits* = some, not many) and **a little** + uncountable nouns (*a little salt* = some, not much). Both have a positive meaning: the quantity is small, but it is enough. Without *a*, **few** and **little** have a negative meaning, "not enough, almost none": *Few tourists visit the village in winter. There's little hope.* In conversation we usually say *very few / very little* or *not many / not much*: *There's very little milk left.*

Figura 7.3 puts all the quantifiers on one scale, from nothing to a large quantity.

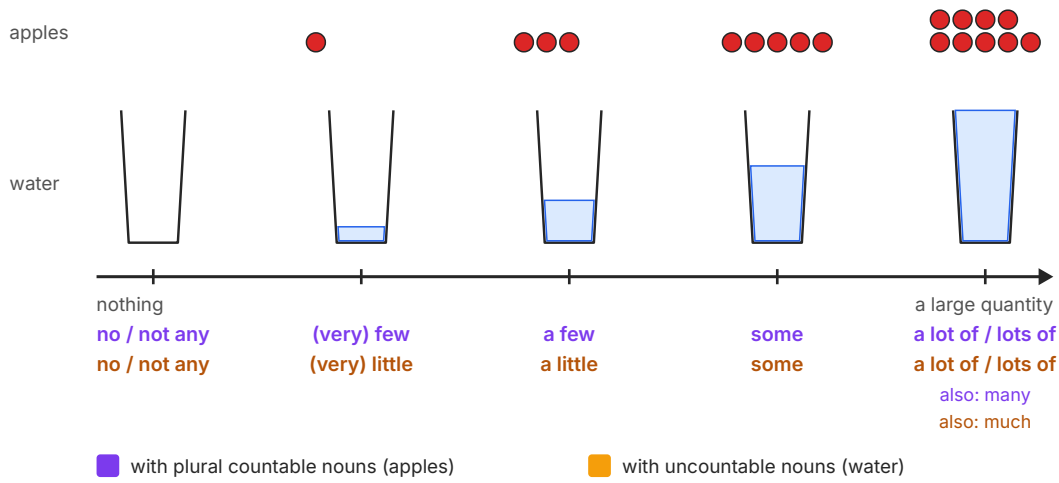


Figura 7.3 The quantity scale. Violet words go with plural countable nouns (*apples*), amber words with uncountable nouns (*water*). *Some*, *no / not any* and *a lot of / lots of* go with both; *many* and *much* are used mostly in questions and negative sentences.

Sometimes a quantity is a problem. **too much** (+ uncountable) and **too many** (+ plural countable) mean "more than is good or necessary": *There's too much salt in this soup. You eat too many sweets.* **enough** means "as much as necessary"; it goes **before** a noun, and *not enough* means "less than necessary": *Have we got enough eggs for the cake? There isn't enough bread for everybody.* (You will meet *enough* after adjectives, as in *old enough*, in Unit 10.)

GRAMMAR IN ITALIANO

Piccole quantità. *Un po' di, qualche, alcuni* si traducono con *a few* davanti ai plurali numerabili (*qualche biscotto = a few biscuits*) e con *a little* davanti ai non numerabili (*un po' di sale = a little salt*). Senza *a*, *few* e *little* significano *pochi, poco* in senso negativo ("non abbastanza"): *He's got few friends = Ha pochi amici*. Una sola lettera cambia il senso della frase!

Troppo e abbastanza. *Troppo / troppa = too much* (non numerabili), *troppi / troppe = too many* (plurali numerabili). *Abbastanza* davanti a un nome = *enough*, sempre prima del nome: *Non abbiamo abbastanza soldi = We haven't got enough money*.

7.3.5 Articles: *a / an*, *the* or no article?

English has two articles: the *indefinite article* **a / an** (Unit 1) and the **definite article** **the**, which is the same for every gender and number: *the boy, the girl, the boys, the girls*. Very often, though, English uses **no article at all**, where Italian always needs one: this is the **zero article**. Figura 7.4 gives you a decision path; the rules are below.

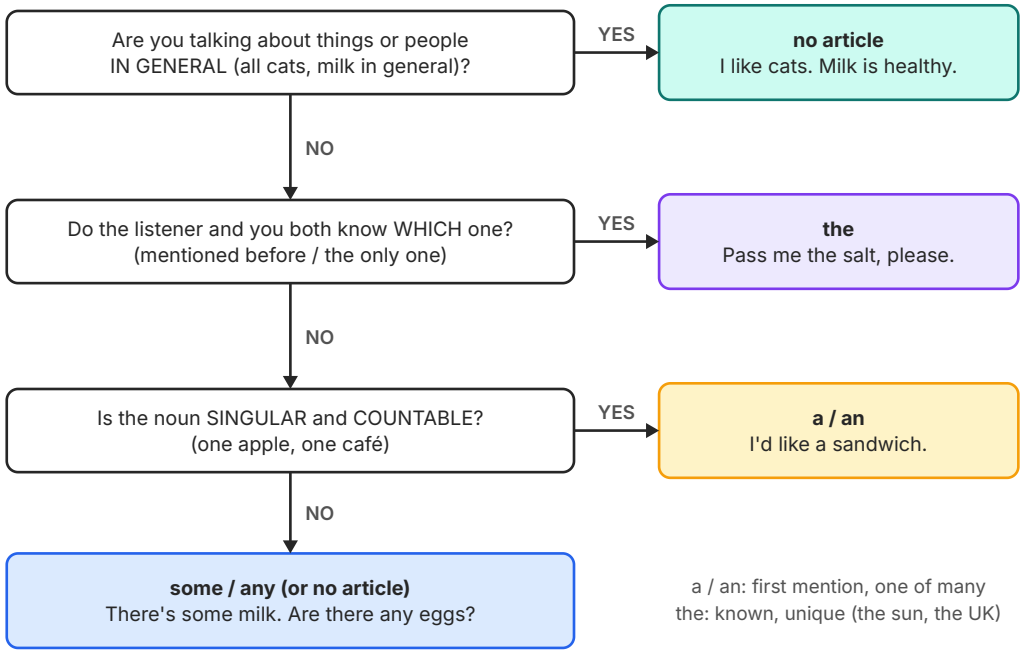


Figura 7.4 Choosing the article. Ask the questions in order, from the top: a general meaning needs no article; something both speakers can identify needs *the*; a singular countable noun mentioned for the first time needs *a / an*.

Use *a / an* with singular countable nouns: when you mention something for the first time, or when it is one of many (*I'd like a sandwich. There's a café near the station.*); with jobs (*Helen is a nurse*); and in expressions of price and frequency, where it means "every": *£2 a kilo, twice a week, three cups a day*.

Use *the* when the listener knows exactly which thing you mean:

- because you mentioned it before: *I'd like a sandwich and a juice. — The sandwich is £4.*
- because the situation makes it clear: *Can you pass me the salt?* (the salt on this table) · *Where's the kettle?*
- because there is only one: *the sun, the moon, the sea, the internet*;
- with the names of rivers, seas and oceans (*the Thames, the Mediterranean, the Atlantic*), and with countries whose name contains a word like *kingdom, states, republic* or is plural (*the UK, the USA, the Netherlands*);
- with musical instruments (*play the guitar*), and in phrases like *go to the cinema, listen to the radio*.

Use no article (zero article):

- with plural and uncountable nouns used **in general**: *I like cats* (all cats). *Milk is good for you. Life is beautiful.* Compare: *The milk in the fridge is old* (that particular milk);
- with meals: *have breakfast / lunch / dinner*, *What's for dinner?*;
- in fixed phrases: *at home, at school, at work, go to bed, go home, by bus, by car, by train*;
- with most names of people, countries, cities, continents and languages: *Giulia, Italy, Bristol, Europe, English*; with sports and games (*play football*), days and months (*on Monday, in May*).

GRAMMAR IN ITALIANO

Gli articoli. *The* è l'articolo determinativo (*il, lo, la, i, gli, le*) e non cambia mai; *a / an* è l'indeterminativo (*un, uno, una*). La differenza più importante con l'italiano è l'**articolo zero**: quando si parla di qualcosa in generale, l'inglese non usa l'articolo. *Il latte fa bene = Milk is good for you*; *Mi piacciono i gatti = I like cats*; *La vita è bella = Life is beautiful.*

Altri casi senza articolo in inglese: lingue (*l'inglese = English*), sport (*gioco a calcio = I play football*), pasti (*fare colazione = have breakfast*), possessivi (*la mia casa = my house*), la maggior parte dei paesi (*l'Italia = Italy*). Al contrario, l'inglese usa *a / an* con le professioni, dove l'italiano non ha articolo: *Fa l'infermiera / È infermiera = She's a nurse*. E i fiumi vogliono *the* come in italiano: *il Tamigi = the Thames*.

ERRORE FREQUENTE

Tradurre l'articolo italiano parola per parola è l'errore più comune.
✗ *The life is beautiful.* → ✓ *Life is beautiful.*
✗ *I play the football on Saturdays.* → ✓ *I play football on Saturdays.* (ma ✓ *I play the piano*)
✗ *The English is easy.* → ✓ *English is easy.*
✗ *My mum is nurse.* → ✓ *My mum is a nurse.*
✗ *I go to school by the bus.* → ✓ *I go to school by bus.*

ESEMPIO SVOLTO

Choose the article step by step. *Sam has ___ breakfast at seven. He eats ___ toast and drinks ___ glass of juice. ___ juice is from ___ corner shop. He thinks ___ orange juice is healthy.*

1. *breakfast* is a meal → zero article: *has breakfast*. **2.** *toast* is uncountable, not specified → zero article (or *some*): *eats toast*. **3.** *glass* is singular, countable, first mention → *a glass of juice*. **4.** Now we know which juice: the one in his glass → *The juice*. **5.** There is one corner shop near Sam's house, and the listener knows it → *the corner shop*. **6.** *orange juice* in general, all orange juice → zero article: *orange juice is healthy*.

7.3.6 *Would like*

Would like means "want", but it is much more polite: it is the form we use in shops, cafés and restaurants, and when we offer something. The contracted form is *'d like* for all persons. It is followed by a noun or by the *to*-infinitive: *I'd like a hot chocolate, please. I'd like to pay, please.*

Tabella 7.5 *Would like*

Affirmative	Negative	Questions	Short answers
I would / I'd like a tea.	I wouldn't like to live there.	Would you like a tea?	Yes, please. / No, thank you. Yes, I would. / No, I wouldn't.
She would / She'd like to go.	She wouldn't like to go.	What would you like (to eat)?	I'd like the soup, please.

To an offer (*Would you like some cake?*) the natural answer is *Yes, please* or *No, thank you / No, thanks*. Be careful with the difference between **Do you like...?**, which asks about tastes in general (Unit 5: *Do you like tea? — Yes, I love it*), and **Would you like...?**, which offers something now: *Would you like a tea? — Yes, please.* In a shop, *I'd like...* or *Can I have..., please?* are polite; *I want...* can sound rude.

GRAMMAR IN ITALIANO

***Would like* = vorrei.** *Would like* corrisponde al condizionale italiano *vorrei, vorresti...*: è la forma cortese di *want*. Forma contratta *'d like*, uguale per tutte le persone (niente *-s* alla terza persona: *She'd like*). Dopo *would like* si mette un nome (*I'd like a coffee* = *Vorrei un caffè*) oppure *to* + infinito (*I'd like to pay* = *Vorrei pagare*).

Attenzione: *Do you like...?* = *Ti piace...?* (gusti in generale); *Would you like...?* = *Vuoi...? / Ti va...? / Gradisci...?* (un'offerta, adesso). Alla domanda *Would you like...?* si risponde *Yes, please* o *No, thank you*, non ✗ *Yes, I like*.

7.4 Listening and Speaking: ordering food, buying things, asking about prices

7.4.1 At the Green Teapot

It's Saturday, and Sam and Giulia are having lunch at a small café in Bristol. Read the script: what do they order, and how much do they pay?

Tabella 7.6 Listening script — At the Green Teapot

Server	Hi there! Table for two? Eat in or take away?
Sam	Eat in, please.
Server	Lovely. Take table four, by the window. Here's the menu. Would you like anything to drink first?
Giulia	Yes, please. Have you got any fresh orange juice?
Server	Sorry, there's no fresh juice today. We've only got orange juice in bottles.
Giulia	That's fine. I'd like a bottle of orange juice, then.
Sam	And can I have a hot chocolate, please?
Server	Sure. Are you ready to order some food?
Giulia	What's the soup of the day?
Server	It's tomato soup. It comes with a slice of bread and a little butter.
Giulia	Is there much cream in it? I don't eat a lot of cream.
Server	No, there's no cream at all — just tomatoes, onions and a few herbs.
Giulia	Perfect. I'd like the soup, please.
Sam	I'd like a cheese and tomato toastie. How much cheese is there in it? I'm really hungry!
Server	Lots! Anything else?
Sam	Not now, thanks. Maybe a cake later.
Twenty minutes later	
Server	Would you like some dessert? The carrot cake is very good today.
Giulia	Can we have one slice of carrot cake and two forks, please? We can share it.
Server	Of course.
Sam	And could we have the bill, please?
Server	Sure. So that's one toastie, one soup, a hot chocolate, an orange juice and a slice of carrot cake. That's sixteen pounds sixty altogether.
Sam	Here's a twenty-pound note.
Server	Thank you. And here's your change: three pounds forty. Do you want the receipt?
Sam	Yes, please. Thank you very much!

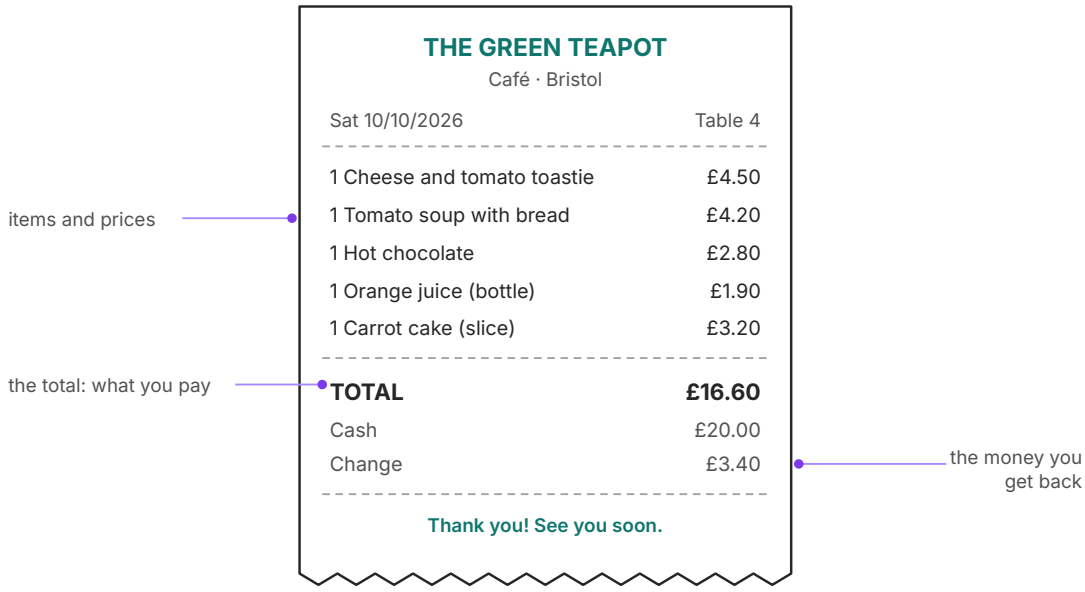


Figura 7.5 Sam and Giulia's receipt from the Green Teapot: £4.50 + £4.20 + £2.80 + £1.90 + £3.20 = £16.60. Sam pays with a £20 note, so the change is £20.00 − £16.60 = £3.40.

Notice the words of the café: *eat in* (at the café) or *take away* (AmE *to go*); the *menu*; the *soup of the day*; and **the bill** *(ita: il conto)*, AmE *the check*. A *toastie* is an informal British word for a toasted sandwich.

7.4.2 At the corner shop

On Sunday morning Helen gives Giulia a shopping list and a ten-pound note. Giulia goes to the corner shop at the end of Elm Road, where Mr Hussain, the shopkeeper, is behind the counter.

Tabella 7.7 Listening script — At the corner shop

Shopkeeper	Good morning! Can I help you?
Giulia	Good morning. Yes, please. I'd like a loaf of bread — a brown one, please.
Shopkeeper	Here you are. That's one forty-five. Anything else?
Giulia	Yes, I need some milk. Have you got any small bottles?
Shopkeeper	Yes, they're in the fridge, on the left. A two-pint bottle is one thirty-five.
Giulia	OK, one two-pint bottle, then. And how many eggs are there in a box?
Shopkeeper	Six. Half a dozen eggs is two pounds ten.
Giulia	One box, please. How much is that jar of honey?
Shopkeeper	It's three pounds fifty. It's local honey, from Somerset.
Giulia	Great, I'll take it. And the last thing on my list: chocolate biscuits.
Shopkeeper	Oh, sorry, there aren't any chocolate biscuits left. I've only got digestives. A packet is one twenty-five.
Giulia	That's OK, one packet of digestives. How much is that altogether?
Shopkeeper	That's nine pounds sixty-five, please.
Giulia	Here you are.
Shopkeeper	Thank you. Thirty-five p change. Would you like a bag? Bags are ten p.
Giulia	No, thanks, I've got one. Bye!

In Britain milk is often sold in *pints* (a pint is about 568 millilitres), and shops usually charge for a new bag, so many people bring their own. Notice how Giulia uses *one* to avoid repeating a noun: *a brown one* (= a brown loaf).

7.4.3 Useful language

Tabella 7.8 Useful language

Function	Customer	Server / shop assistant
Starting	Excuse me… · Hello, a table for two, please.	Can I help you? · Are you ready to order? · Eat in or take away?
Ordering and asking for things	I'd like…, please. · Can I have…, please? · Could we have the bill, please? · Have you got any…?	What would you like? · Would you like anything to drink? · Anything else?
Asking about prices	How much is this / that…? · How much are these / those…? · How much is that altogether?	It's £3.50. · They're £2 a kilo. · That's £9.65, please.
Saying something is not available	That's OK / fine. · Never mind.	Sorry, there's no… / there aren't any… left. · I'm afraid we haven't got any…
Paying	Can I pay by card? · Here you are. · Keep the change.	Here's your change / receipt. · Would you like a bag?

Speaking.

1. **Role play — at a café.** Student A is the server, Student B is the customer. A greets B and asks *Eat in or take away?*; B orders a drink and something to eat, asks one question about the food, and asks for the bill. A gives the total. Use the prices in Figura 7.5 and the phrases in Tabella 7.8.
2. **Role play — shopping list.** Write a shopping list of five things with quantities (*a jar of…, half a dozen…*). Your partner is the shop assistant and has got everything except one thing. Ask for the items and the prices, then pay and check your change.
3. **Food survey.** Ask three classmates: *How many cups of coffee or tea do you drink a day? How much water do you drink? Do you eat enough fruit? What would you like for dinner tonight?* Report the most interesting answer to the class.

7.5 Writing: a recipe

A **recipe** /ˈresəpi/ *(ita: ricetta)* tells you how to cook a dish. It is one of the clearest texts in any language, because it has a fixed structure: a title, a list of **ingredients** *(ita: ingredienti)* with exact quantities, and a *method*, a series of steps in order. Here is the recipe Giulia writes for the Taylor family.

Pasta al pomodoro (serves 4)

Ingredients: 400 grams of spaghetti · a tin of chopped tomatoes (400 g) · 2 tablespoons of olive oil · a clove of garlic · a few fresh basil leaves · a little salt · some grated Parmesan (optional)

Method:

1. First, fill a big pan with water and put it on the cooker. When the water boils, add a little salt.
2. While the water is heating, put the olive oil and the garlic in a frying pan. Cook the garlic gently for two minutes, but don't let it burn.
3. Then add the tomatoes and a pinch of salt. Cook the sauce for about fifteen minutes and stir it from time to time.
4. Next, put the spaghetti into the boiling water. Cook it for about ten minutes (check the packet: every pasta is different).
5. After that, drain the pasta and put it in the frying pan with the sauce. Mix everything for one minute.
6. Finally, add the basil leaves and serve the pasta immediately, with some Parmesan if you like. Don't add chicken!

Tabella 7.9 The structure of a recipe

Part	Content	Language
Title	The name of the dish and how many people it is for	*(serves 4)*
Ingredients	A list with exact quantities	numbers + grams / kilos; containers (*a tin of*); *a few, a little, some*
Method	Numbered steps, in order, one or two actions each	imperatives (*add, cook, mix*; *don't let it burn*)
Linking the steps	The order of the actions	sequencers: *first, then, next, after that, finally*; *while, when*

The verbs are **imperatives** (Unit 4), with no subject. The **sequencers** *first, then, next, after that, finally* show the order of the steps; they go at the start of the sentence, usually followed by a comma. Useful cooking verbs: *boil, fry, bake* (*cuocere in forno*), *chop* (*tritare*), *stir* (*mescolare*), *pour* (*versare*), *drain* (*scolare*).

COLLEGAMENTI

Maths: which packet is better value? Supermarkets in the UK often show the *unit price* on the shelf label, for example the price per kilo. You can calculate it yourself. A 500 g packet of pasta costs £0.90 and a 1 kg packet of the same pasta costs £1.60. Two small packets make 1 kg and cost 2 × £0.90 = £1.80, so the big packet is cheaper: you save £0.20 on every kilo. In English we say the big packet is *better value*. In the US, recipes often use *cups* and *ounces* instead of grams.

Checklist. Before you hand in your recipe, check that you:

- give the title and say how many people it serves;
- list every ingredient with a quantity, using containers and *a few / a little / some* correctly;
- write each step with an imperative and keep the steps in order;
- use at least four sequencers (*first, then, next, after that, finally*);
- spell the uncountable nouns without *-s* (*rice, flour, butter*);
- write 80–100 words.

Your turn. Write the recipe of a simple dish from your town or region, or of your favourite snack, for an English-speaking friend (80–100 words). Follow the structure in Tabella 7.9.

7.6 Culture: food traditions in the UK and the US

Here are four British and American food traditions that you may meet on a trip, in a film or in a book.

The full English breakfast. A **full English** (or a *fry-up*) is a large cooked breakfast: fried or scrambled eggs, bacon, sausages, grilled tomatoes, mushrooms, baked beans and toast, sometimes with black pudding. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own versions, with local ingredients. Today very few people eat it every day: on a normal weekday most British people have something quick, like cereal or toast, and keep the full English for weekends, holidays and hotel breakfasts.

Afternoon tea. Tea arrived in Britain from Asia in the seventeenth century, and in the following century it became the national drink. **Afternoon tea** is a light meal served in the late afternoon: small sandwiches (cucumber is a classic), scones with jam and cream, and cakes, with a pot of tea. According to tradition, it became fashionable in the 1840s thanks to Anna, Duchess of Bedford, who was hungry in the long hours between lunch and a late dinner. Today it is a special treat for birthdays and celebrations, not an everyday meal.

Fish and chips. Fish (usually cod or haddock) fried in batter, with thick chips, is one of the most famous British takeaways. It became popular in the nineteenth century, when fresh fish could travel quickly by train from the ports to the cities. People often add salt and vinegar, and in England mushy peas are a common side dish.

Thanksgiving. In the United States, **Thanksgiving** is a national holiday on the **fourth Thursday of November**. Families meet for a big dinner, traditionally with roast turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, potatoes and pumpkin pie. The holiday remembers a harvest celebration in 1621 between the English settlers of Plymouth Colony, in what is now Massachusetts, and the Wampanoag people. In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of Thanksgiving, and since 1941 a law has fixed it on the fourth Thursday. Canada has its own Thanksgiving, on the second Monday of October. Figura 7.6 shows both dates in 2026.

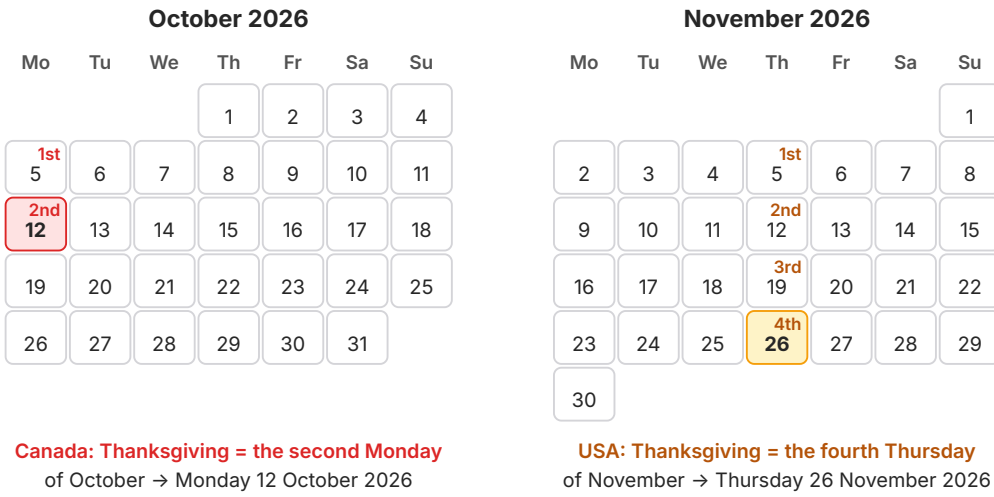


Figura 7.6 Thanksgiving in 2026. In Canada it falls on the second Monday of October (12 October); in the USA on the fourth Thursday of November (26 November). The weeks start on Monday, as in British and Italian calendars.

Modern British and American food is also very international: in most British towns there are Indian, Chinese and Italian restaurants. So be careful with stereotypes: a British dinner today can be a curry or a lasagne just as easily as roast beef.

Compare with Italy. Which Italian dishes belong to a particular day or festival (for example Christmas, Carnival or Easter)? Is there an Italian meal that is similar to afternoon tea, or to a big family dinner like Thanksgiving? Which Italian food would you like to show to Sam, and why?

SINTESI

- Containers and quantities: *a bottle of water, a carton of milk, a packet of crisps, a tin of tomatoes, a jar of honey, a loaf of bread, a slice of cake, a bar of chocolate*.
- Money: £1 = 100p; £3.50 = *three pounds fifty*; *How much is it? — It's…; How much are they? — They're…*
- Countable nouns have a plural and take *a / an*; uncountable nouns (*bread, money, advice, information, news, furniture, homework*) have no plural and no *a / an* (nomi non numerabili).
- To count an uncountable noun: *a piece of advice, two loaves of bread, a kilo of rice*.
- *some* in affirmatives, offers and requests; *any* in negatives and questions; *no* = *not any*, with an affirmative verb (one negative only).
- *many* + plural countable, *much* + uncountable (mainly in ? and –); *a lot of / lots of* + both, especially in affirmatives.
- *How many…?* + plural countable; *How much…?* + uncountable and for prices.
- *a few* + countable, *a little* + uncountable (positive: some); *few / little* = not enough.
- *too much / too many* = more than necessary; *(not) enough* + noun.
- No article for general ideas, meals, *at home / at school / by bus*, most countries and languages; *the* for known or unique things, rivers and seas, *the UK / the USA*; *a / an* for first mention, jobs and *twice a week*.
- *would like* (= vorrei) + noun or *to*-infinitive: *I'd like a tea. Would you like some cake? — Yes, please.*
- US Thanksgiving: the fourth Thursday of November; Canada: the second Monday of October.

ESERCIZI

Vocabulary

1. ● Complete with a container from the box. Use each word once: *bar · carton · jar · loaf · packet · slice · tin · bottle*.
   (a) a _____ of bread (b) a _____ of pizza (c) a _____ of chocolate (d) a _____ of honey (e) a _____ of tomatoes (f) a _____ of crisps (g) a _____ of orange juice (h) a _____ of water

2. ● Find the odd one out and say why.
   (a) apple · banana · carrot · pear
   (b) baker's · butcher's · greengrocer's · kitchen
   (c) bread · rice · coin · money
   (d) tea · coffee · juice · cheese

3. ● Where can you buy sausages?
   - **A.** at the baker's
   - **B.** at the newsagent's
   - **C.** at the butcher's
   - **D.** at the chemist's

4. ● Your sandwich costs £3.20 and you give the shop assistant £5. How much is your change?
   - **A.** £2.80
   - **B.** £1.80
   - **C.** £8.20
   - **D.** £2.20

5. ●● Write the prices in words.
   (a) £4.50 (b) 75p (c) £12.99 (d) $3.25 (e) £1.05 (f) £20

6. ●● Complete the text with the words in the box: *cash · change · customers · queue · receipt · till*. On Saturdays the supermarket is very busy and there are a lot of (a) _____ . I usually wait in a long (b) _____ before I get to the (c) _____ . I never pay by card: I always pay in (d) _____ . The shop assistant gives me my (e) _____ and a (f) _____ , and I check the prices on it at home.

7. ●● Which expression is NOT correct?
   - **A.** a piece of cake
   - **B.** a slice of bread
   - **C.** a bag of sugar
   - **D.** a loaf of milk

Grammar

8. ● Countable (C) or uncountable (U)? Write C or U.
   (a) apple (b) bread (c) money (d) coin (e) advice (f) egg (g) rice (h) information (i) sandwich (j) furniture (k) news (l) potato

9. ● Complete with *some*, *any* or *no*.
   (a) There's _____ milk in the fridge, but there isn't _____ butter.
   (b) Have you got _____ brothers or sisters?
   (c) Would you like _____ grapes?
   (d) Sorry, there are _____ chocolate biscuits left.
   (e) We haven't got _____ bread. Can you buy _____ ?

10. ● Complete with *much*, *many* or *a lot of*.
(a) How _____ eggs do we need for the cake?
(b) I haven't got _____ money, so I can't buy a new phone.
(c) Helen drinks _____ tea: four or five cups a day.
(d) There aren't _____ shops in my village.
(e) How _____ water do you drink every day?

11. ● How _____ sugar do you take in your coffee?
A. much
B. many
C. lot
D. few

12. ●● We've got _____ biscuits — just two or three, so let's buy a packet.
A. a little
B. much
C. a lot of
D. a few

13. ●● Complete with *a few*, *a little*, *too much*, *too many* or *enough*. Use each expression once.
(a) Add _____ salt to the water — just a pinch.
(b) I can't drink this coffee: there's _____ sugar in it.
(c) We've got six eggs. That's _____ for the recipe: it needs four.
(d) Can I ask you _____ questions? It takes two minutes.
(e) There are _____ people on this bus. Let's wait for the next one.

14. ●● Complete with *a*, *an*, *the* or – (no article).
(a) I'd like _____ omelette and _____ sandwich, please. — Sure. _____ sandwich is £4.
(b) _____ vegetables are good for you.
(c) Giulia's dad is _____ teacher.
(d) We have _____ lunch at school, and then we go _____ home by _____ bus.
(e) London is on _____ Thames, and it's the capital of _____ UK.
(f) Sam plays _____ basketball and _____ guitar.

15. ●● Each sentence has a mistake. Find it and correct it.
(a) ✗ Can I have an information about the train?
(b) ✗ The news are very good today.
(c) ✗ How many money have you got?
(d) ✗ There isn't no milk in the fridge.
(e) ✗ The life is too short.
(f) ✗ I've got a lot of homeworks tonight.

16. ●● Make the requests more polite. Use *would like* or *Can I have...?*
    (a) I want a glass of water.
    (b) I want to pay by card.
    (c) Give me two slices of pizza.
    (d) (to a friend) Do you want some cake?

17. ●● *Do you like...?* or *Would you like...?* Choose the correct question.
    (a) (Do you like / Would you like) a biscuit? — Yes, please.
    (b) (Do you like / Would you like) Indian food? — Yes, I love it.
    (c) (Do you like / Would you like) to come to the market with me tomorrow? — Yes, I'd love to.
    (d) (Do you like / Would you like) cooking? — No, I can't stand it.

18. ●●● Put the words in the correct order.
    (a) like / would / to drink / what / you / ?
    (b) are / how / these / much / strawberries / ?
    (c) eggs / enough / got / we / have / ?
    (d) any / there / bread / isn't / left
    (e) a / I'd / of / like / bottle / water

19. ●●● Translate into English.
    (a) Vorrei un chilo di mele, per favore. Quanto costano?
    (b) Non abbiamo molto tempo e non ci sono autobus la domenica.
    (c) Mi piacciono i gatti, ma il gatto del mio vicino è antipatico.

20. ● Complete with an indefinite pronoun from the table in Section 7.3.
    (a) There's _____ at the door. Can you open it, please?
    (b) I'm hungry. Is there _____ to eat?
    (c) _____ in my class has got a bike — all twenty-five of us!
    (d) I can't find my glasses _____ .
    (e) It's late and the café is closed: there's _____ inside, no customers and no staff.
    (f) Let's go _____ quiet for lunch.

21. ●● Find and correct the mistake in each sentence.
    (a) Everybody are very friendly at Sam's school.
    (b) I haven't got nothing to do this afternoon.
    (c) Would you like something of hot to drink?
    (d) Is there anybody in the classroom? — No, there's anybody.
    (e) Nobody don't like cold tea.

Reading and Listening

22. ● Read Giulia's article in 7.2. Are the sentences true (T), false (F) or doesn't say (DS)?
(a) In Italy Giulia usually has breakfast at a bar.
(b) There is a coffee machine in the Taylors' kitchen.
(c) Mark cooks a full English breakfast every morning.
(d) Sam's packed lunch hasn't got any fruit in it.
(e) The Taylors have dinner at half past five.
(f) Giulia's favourite takeaway is Chinese food.

23. ●● Answer the questions about Giulia's article.
(a) What does Helen drink a lot of?
(b) Why is Giulia often hungry in the evening?
(c) What is different between an Italian dinner and a British dinner, according to Giulia?
(d) What happens on Fridays?
(e) What does Giulia want to do now, and what is her rule?

24. ●● Find words or phrases in the article that mean:
(a) a machine that boils water for tea
(b) food that you bring from home to eat at school
(c) food that you buy at a restaurant or shop and eat at home
(d) an acid liquid that people put on fish and chips
(e) suggestions about what somebody should do

25. ●● Read the café script in 7.4.1 and answer.
(a) Why does Giulia order a bottle of orange juice?
(b) What is the soup of the day, and what comes with it?
(c) What do they order for dessert, and why do they ask for two forks?
(d) How much do they pay altogether, and how much is the change? Check the sum with Figura 7.5.

26. ●● Read the corner-shop script in 7.4.2 and complete Giulia's list with the quantity and the price.
(a) bread: _____ (b) milk: _____ (c) eggs: _____ (d) honey: _____ (e) biscuits: _____ — Then add up the prices: is the total correct? How much change does Giulia get from £10?

27. ●● Read the Green Teapot advert in Section 7.2. a Who is the advert for? Find two groups of people. b Find three imperatives and three positive adjectives. c What is the special offer, and what do you need to get it? d How much do a Pancake Stack and a Fruit and Yoghurt Bowl cost together? e Find the slogan. Why is it easy to remember? f Is *our delicious hot chocolate* a fact or an opinion?

Writing and Speaking

28. ● Complete the sentences so that they are true for you.
    (a) For breakfast I usually have…
    (b) I drink a lot of… but I don't drink much…
    (c) There isn't enough… in my town.
    (d) I eat too many / too much…
    (e) Tonight I'd like…

29. ●● Role play. With a partner, write and act a dialogue at a café (10–12 lines). The customer orders a drink and something to eat, asks if there is any… and asks about the price; the server says one thing is not available and gives the total and the change.

30. ●●● Write a recipe (80–100 words) for a dish that you can cook. Include a title, the ingredients with quantities, and the method with imperatives and at least four sequencers. Use the checklist in 7.5.

Towards B1

31. ●● Multiple-choice cloze. Choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D) for each gap. *Every Saturday morning there is (1) ___ farmers' market in the square near Sam's house. You can buy (2) ___ fresh fruit and vegetables there, and there are (3) ___ stalls with cheese and bread. Giulia loves it, but she doesn't buy (4) ___ cheese, because the prices are quite high. Today she would like (5) ___ some strawberries for Lily.*
    (1) A the · B a · C an · D some
    (2) A many · B a few · C lots of · D a
    (3) A much · B a little · C any · D a few
    (4) A many · B much · C a few · D few
    (5) A buy · B buying · C to buy · D buys

32. ●● Open cloze. Write ONE word in each gap. *Hi Sam! I'm at the supermarket. There isn't (1) ___ fresh pasta, so I'm buying dried pasta. How (2) ___ tins of tomatoes have we got at home? I don't want to buy too (3) ___. And is there (4) ___ Parmesan in the fridge? Let me know quickly — there's a long (5) ___ at the checkout! G.*

33. ●●● Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first. Use the word in CAPITALS and one to three words in total.
    (a) There isn't any milk in the fridge. NO → There's _____ in the fridge.
    (b) We haven't got many eggs. FEW → We've only got _____ eggs.
    (c) I want a coffee, please. LIKE → I _____ a coffee, please.
    (d) What's the price of this cake? MUCH → How _____ this cake?
    (e) There are more people than chairs. ENOUGH → There aren't _____ for everybody.

34. ●● You are at a shop. Your English-speaking friend is cooking dinner tonight. Write a text message (35–45 words): ask what he or she needs, say one thing the shop hasn't got, and suggest something else.

35. ●● Read the notice. What does it say?

THE GREEN TEAPOT — Soup of the day £4.20 (with bread). Sorry: no card payments today. Takeaway drinks 50p cheaper.

A. The soup is cheaper if you take it away.

B. You can only pay by card today.

C. Today you must pay in cash.

D. Bread costs £4.20.

PER APPROFONDIRE

- MUR — R. Murphy, *Essential Grammar in Use*: the units on countable and uncountable nouns, *a / an* and *the*, *some / any*, *much / many* and *little / few*, with extra practice.
- EGU — R. Murphy, *English Grammar in Use*: the units on the article system (*the* with names of places, school / the school) for students who want to go further.
- SWA — M. Swan, *Practical English Usage*: entries on uncountable nouns, articles, *a little / a few* and *enough*.
- OAL — *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*: check if a noun is countable [C] or uncountable [U] before you use it.
- CED — D. Crystal, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*: British and American food words (*biscuit / cookie, crisps / chips, bill / check*).

Glossario del capitolo

A few / a little
qualche, alcuni / un po' di — a small quantity: *a few* + plural countable, *a little* + uncountable

A piece of
un pezzo di, un — used to count uncountable nouns: *a piece of cake, a piece of advice*

Carton
cartone, brick — a paper container for liquids: *a carton of milk*

Change
resto — the money you get back when you pay more than the price

Container
contenitore, confezione — the bottle, box, tin or packet that holds food: *a + container + of + food*

Countable noun
nome numerabile — a noun with a singular and a plural: *an egg, two eggs*

Definite article
articolo determinativo — *the*: for things the listener can identify

Enough
abbastanza — as much or as many as necessary; before a noun: *enough eggs*

Jar
barattolo, vasetto — a glass container with a lid: *a jar of honey*

Loaf (pl. loaves)
pagnotta, pane in cassetta — bread baked in one piece: *a loaf of bread*

Pound / penny (pl. pence)
sterlina / penny — the money of the UK: £1 = 100p; £3.50 = *three pounds fifty*

Queue
fila, coda — a line of people waiting (AmE *line*): *wait in a queue*

Receipt
scontrino, ricevuta — a piece of paper that shows what you bought; the *p* is silent

Recipe
ricetta — instructions for cooking a dish: ingredients and method

Slice
fetta — a thin piece cut from something: *a slice of bread, a slice of pizza*

The bill
il conto — the paper with the total you pay in a café or restaurant (AmE *the check*)

Tin
scatola di latta, lattina — a metal container for food (AmE *can*): *a tin of tomatoes*

Uncountable noun
nome non numerabile — a noun with no plural and no *a / an*: *bread, money, advice, information*

Would like
vorrei, vorresti… — a polite form of *want*: *I'd like a tea. Would you like some cake?*

Zero article
articolo zero — no article, e.g. for general ideas: *Milk is good for you*

Soluzioni

1. a loaf · b slice · c bar · d jar · e tin · f packet · g carton · h bottle.

2. a carrot (a vegetable; the others are fruit) · b kitchen (a room, not a shop) · c coin (countable; the others are uncountable) · d cheese (food, not a drink).

3. C (at the butcher's).

4. B (£5.00 – £3.20 = £1.80).

5. a four pounds fifty · b seventy-five p / seventy-five pence · c twelve pounds ninety-nine (twelve ninety-nine) · d three dollars twenty-five (three twenty-five) · e one pound five / a pound five · f twenty pounds.

6. a customers · b queue · c till · d cash · e change · f receipt.

7. D. *Il latte si compra in a carton o a bottle; loaf si usa solo per il pane.*

8. a C · b U · c U · d C · e U · f C · g U · h U · i C · j U · k U · l C.

9. a some, any · b any · c some (offer) · d no · e any, some.

10. a many · b much (also: a lot of) · c a lot of · d many (also: a lot of) · e much. *much/many soprattutto in domande e negative; a lot of nelle affermative.*

11. A (much: *sugar* is uncountable).

12. D (a few + plural countable noun, a small number).

13. a a little · b too much · c enough · d a few · e too many.

14. a an (omelette), a (sandwich), The (sandwich: already mentioned) · b – (vegetables in general) · c a (jobs) · d – lunch, – home, – bus · e the Thames, the UK · f – basketball, the guitar.

15. a Can I have some information (a piece of information) about the train? · b The news is very good today. · c How much money have you got? · d There isn't any milk in the fridge. / There's no milk in the fridge. · e Life is too short. · f I've got a lot of homework tonight.

16. a I'd like (I would like) a glass of water, please. / Can I have a glass of water, please? · b I'd like to pay by card, please. / Can I pay by card, please? · c I'd like two slices of pizza, please. / Can I have two slices of pizza, please? · d Would you like some cake?

17. a Would you like (offer) · b Do you like (taste in general) · c Would you like (invitation) · d Do you like (general).

18. a What would you like to drink? · b How much are these strawberries? · c Have we got enough eggs? · d There isn't any bread left. · e I'd like a bottle of water.

19. a I'd like (I would like) a kilo of apples, please. How much are they? · b We haven't got much time, and there are no buses (there aren't any buses) on Sundays. · c I like cats, but my neighbour's cat is unfriendly. *Articolo zero per i gatti in generale; genitivo sassone senza articolo.*

20. a somebody / someone · b anything · c Everybody / Everyone · d anywhere · e nobody / no one · f somewhere.

21. a Everybody **is** very friendly... · b I haven't got **anything** to do... / I've got **nothing** to do... · c something **hot** to drink · d No, there's **nobody** / No, there isn't anybody. · e Nobody **likes** cold tea. *Una sola negazione, e verbo al singolare.*

22. a T · b F (there's only a kettle) · c F (only sometimes, on Sundays) · d T · e T · f F (her favourite is fish and chips).

23. a Tea (four or five cups a day, with milk). · b Because the Taylors have dinner very early, at half past five. · c In Italy pasta comes first and then the meat, on two plates; in Britain there is usually one

plate with everything together. · d Nobody cooks: the family orders a takeaway. · e She wants to cook pasta al pomodoro for the Taylors; her rule is “no chicken”.

24. a kettle · b packed lunch · c takeaway · d vinegar · e advice.

25. a Because there's no fresh orange juice today, only juice in bottles. · b Tomato soup; it comes with a slice of bread and a little butter. · c One slice of carrot cake; they want to share it. · d £16.60 altogether; the change from £20 is £3.40 (4.50 + 4.20 + 2.80 + 1.90 + 3.20 = 16.60; 20.00 − 16.60 = 3.40).

26. a a (brown) loaf, £1.45 · b a two-pint bottle, £1.35 · c half a dozen (a box of six), £2.10 · d a jar of (local) honey, £3.50 · e a packet of digestives, £1.25. Total: 1.45 + 1.35 + 2.10 + 3.50 + 1.25 = £9.65, so the total is correct; change from £10: 35p.

27. a Any two: people who want breakfast at the weekend; students; people with no time to sit down (takeaway customers). · b Imperatives: *come, try, show, get, order, take* (any three); adjectives: *new, fresh, warm, local, delicious, free* (any three). · c A free orange juice with any breakfast; you need to show your school card. · d £5.20 + £3.90 = £9.10. · e *Fresh. Local. Made with love.* It is short, it has three parts with a rhythm, and every word is positive. · f An opinion: the café cannot prove it.

28. Open answers. Model: a For breakfast I usually have milk and biscuits. · b I drink a lot of water, but I don't drink much coffee. · c There isn't enough space for bikes in my town. · d I eat too many sweets. · e Tonight I'd like a pizza.

29. Model dialogue: A: Hi! Eat in or take away? — B: Eat in, please. Have you got any apple juice? — A: Sorry, there's no apple juice today. We've got orange juice. — B: OK, a glass of orange juice, then. And I'd like a cheese sandwich, please. Is there any butter in it? — A: Yes, a little. — B: That's fine. How much is that altogether? — A: That's £5.80, please. — B: Here's a ten-pound note. — A: Thank you. Here's your change: £4.20. Check: functions from Tabella 7.8, *some / any / no*, *would like*, a correct price and correct change.

30. Model (about 90 words): *Bruschetta (serves 4). Ingredients: 8 slices of bread, 4 ripe tomatoes, a clove of garlic, a few basil leaves, 3 tablespoons of olive oil, a little salt. Method: First, toast the slices of bread. Then cut the garlic in half and rub it on the hot toast. Next, chop the tomatoes into small pieces and put them in a bowl with the oil, the basil and a little salt. After that, mix everything well. Finally, put some tomatoes on each slice and serve the bruschetta immediately. Don't put it in the fridge!*

31. 1 B (a) · 2 C (lots of) · 3 D (a few) · 4 B (much) · 5 C (to buy).

32. 1 any (also: much) · 2 many · 3 many · 4 any (also: some, enough) · 5 queue (also AmE: line).

33. a no milk · b a few · c would like / 'd like · d much is · e enough chairs.

34. Model (about 40 words): *Hi Luca! I'm at the supermarket now. What do you need for dinner tonight? They haven't got any fresh basil, sorry. Would you like some parsley instead? Or I can buy a jar of pesto. Let me know! Chiara*

35. C. *“No card payments today”: oggi si paga solo in contanti. Lo sconto di 50p vale per le bevande da asporto, non per la zuppa.*