

2 Countable and uncountable nouns

- Countable nouns are things that can be counted. They have a singular and plural form: *book* → *books* *glass* → *glasses*
- Uncountable nouns cannot be counted. They do not have a plural form: *one milk* *two waters* *three breads*
- We use *a/an* with singular countable nouns: *Has he got **a** car? I'd like **an** apple, please.*
- We use *some* with plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns in affirmative sentences: *I'd like **some** eggs, please. There's **some** water in the jug.*
- We use *any* with plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns in negative sentences and questions: *They didn't have **any** apples. Did you buy **any** eggs? They didn't have **any** water. Have we got **any** milk?*
- We usually use *some* in questions when we make offers and requests: *Would you like **some** apples? Can I have **some** more coffee, please?*
- We use *no* to mean 'not one/not any' with singular and plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns. We use *no* with an affirmative verb: *There **are no** cars in the city centre. They **had no** water.*

PRACTICE

2a Write **C** after the countable nouns and **U** after the uncountable nouns.

| | | | | | |
|--------|----------|-------------|--|-----------|--|
| friend | C | music | | butter | |
| bread | U | DVD player | | furniture | |
| rice | | money | | flat | |
| book | | plate | | oil | |
| sugar | | cheese | | sand | |
| car | | information | | banana | |
| office | | bag | | shampoo | |
| soup | | vegetable | | tea | |

2b Marc is going to visit London and his friend is giving him some advice. Complete the sentences. Use *a, an* or *some*.

- 0 Don't forget to change*some*..... money before you go.
- 1 Have you got map of the city?
- 2 Here are addresses of cheap hotels.
- 3 Take umbrella. It often rains in London.
- 4 It's a good idea to take raincoat.
- 5 Pack warm clothes. It's sometimes cold in September.
- 6 Remember to take camera with you – I want to see your photos!

2c Circle the correct answer.

- 0 My sister's married, but she hasn't got *some* / **(any)** children.
- 1 I eat *some* / *any* fruit every day, usually apples or bananas.
- 2 My father works in *a* / *an* office and my mother's *a* / *an* hairdresser.
- 3 Do you have *a* / *any* homework this evening?
- 4 Would you like *some* / *a* tea?
- 5 I don't put *some* / *any* salt on my food. I don't like it.
- 6 Have you got *a* / *any* brothers or sisters?
- 7 The room's empty. There's *no* / *any* furniture in it.
- 8 There weren't *some* / *any* people at the bus stop. I was the only person there.
- 9 What *a* / *an* terrible smell! Open the window and let in *a* / *some* fresh air.
- 10 Gloria hasn't got *no* / *any* pets, but she'd like a cat.

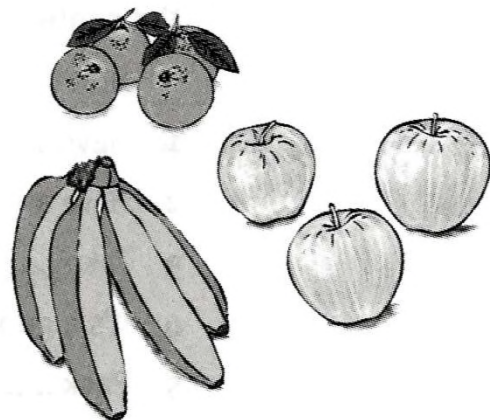
2d Re-write the sentences. Use any or no.

- 0 We haven't got any money. *We've got no money.*
- 1 There isn't any milk in the fridge.
- 2 There are no shops open today.
- 3 He's got no friends at work.
- 4 There aren't any buses after midnight.
- 5 I haven't got any free time tomorrow.
- 6 There's no sugar in my coffee.

2e Complete the conversations. Use a, some, any or no.

- A: I'd like (0) *some* information about trains, please. Are there (1) trains to Oxford on Saturday afternoon?
- B: Let's see. There's (2) train at 4.35, but there are (3) trains after that.
- A: OK, the 4.35 is fine. Can I have two return tickets, please?
- _____

- A: Can I help you?
- B: Yes. I'd like (4) oranges, please.
Two kilos. And (5) bananas.
- A: I'm sorry. We haven't got (6) bananas today. Would you like (7) apples instead? We have (8) special offer today.
- B: Yes, thanks. A kilo, please.



4 a lot of/lots of, many, much, (a) few, (a) little

- We use *a lot of/lots of*, *many*, *much*, *(a) few* and *(a) little* to talk about quantity.
- We use *a lot of/lots of* (= a large number/amount of) with plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns: **Lots of people** have fast Internet connections. There's **a lot of information** for travellers on the Web.
- We use *many* with plural countable nouns and *much* with uncountable nouns in negative sentences and questions: *Have you got **many films** on DVD? I haven't got **much energy** at the moment.*
- We use *a few* (= a small number of) with plural countable nouns and *a little* (= a small amount of) with uncountable nouns: *Can I ask you **a few questions**? I'd like **a little milk** in my coffee, please.*
- We use *few* and *little* to mean 'an extremely small number/amount of': **Few people** read poetry these days. She had **little time** to study and failed the exam.
- We use *How much/How many* in questions and *not much*, *not many*, *a lot*, *a few* and *a little* in short answers: **How many** computer games have you got? **A lot./Not many./Just a few.**



We can use *many*, *much* and *a lot* without a noun: *He collects stamps, but he hasn't got **many**. Did your mobile cost **much**? They watch TV **a lot**.*

PRACTICE

4a Complete the sentences. Use *many* or *much*.

- 0 I don't have *much* free time these days, so I don't often cook.
- 1 There aren't good restaurants in this part of town.
- 2 How sugar do you take in your coffee?
- 3 They don't eat eggs. Just one or two a week.
- 4 How red meat do you eat every week?
- 5 How kilos of rice do you want me to buy?
- 6 I don't drink coffee. It stops me from sleeping at night.
- 7 We don't buy takeaways. We don't think they're healthy.
- 8 Do you eat Indian food? We eat it all the time!

4b Circle the correct answer.

A: I went to see (0) a few / a little flats this morning.

B: Did you like any?

A: One flat was nice. There are (1) *a few* / *a little* shops nearby and it's near the university, but it only gets (2) *a few* / *a little* sunlight, so it's quite dark. And there's (3) *a few* / *a little* water coming in through one of the windows. But there's another problem: we can't move in for (4) *a few* / *a little* weeks.

B: That's not good.

A: Mike, I've invited (5) *a few / a little* friends for dinner tonight. Could you give me (6) *a few / a little* help to get things ready?

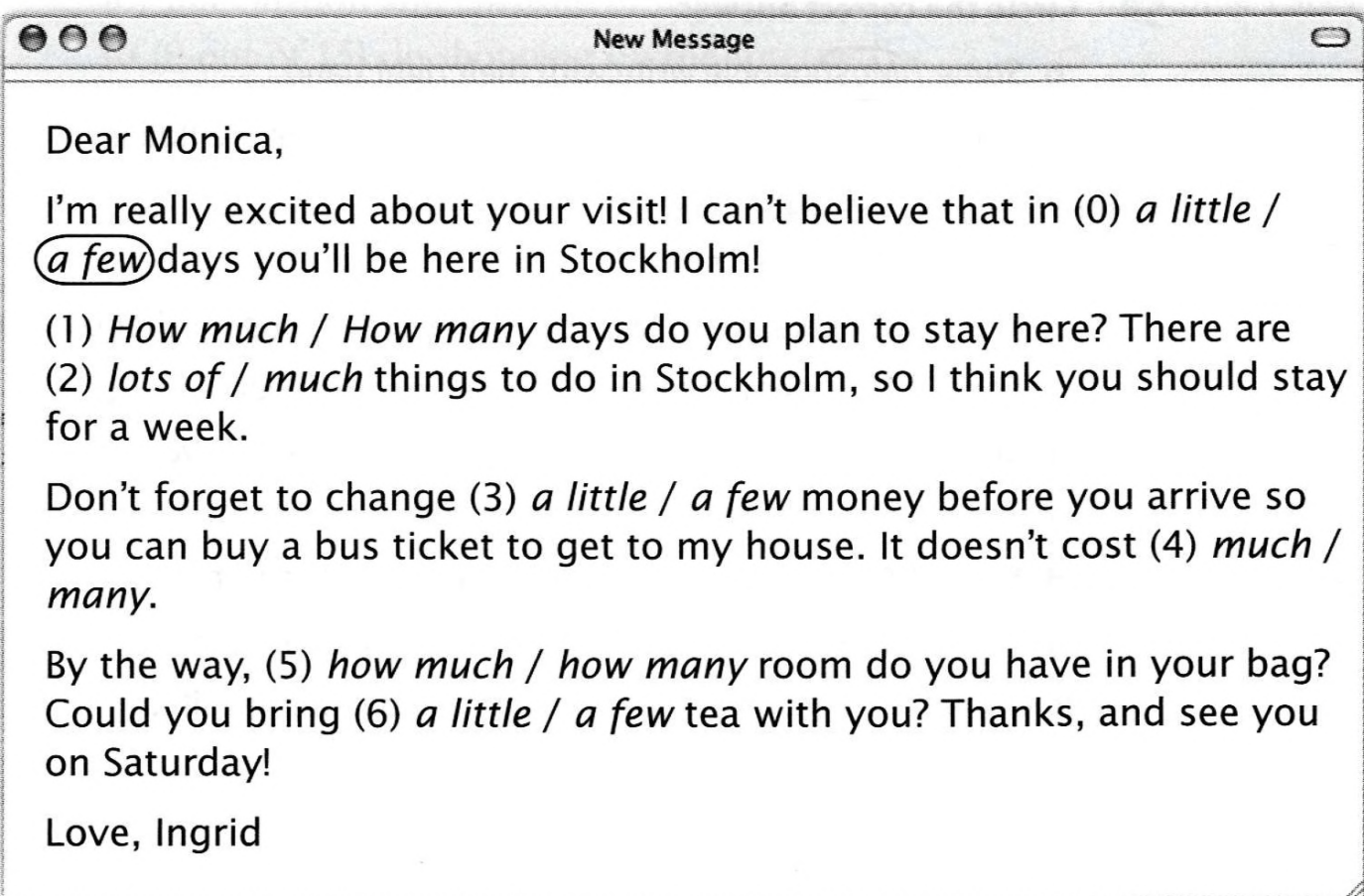
B: Sure. What do you want me to do?

A: Well, we've only got (7) *a few / a little* bread left. Could you get some more? And could you wash up (8) *a few / a little* dishes for me?

4c Complete the sentences. Use *a lot of, few or little*.

- o Her diet's not very healthy. She eats *a lot of* meat but very *few* vegetables.
- 1 I love music. I've got CDs but very space to put them in.
- 2 He's lazy. He does very housework and watches TV.
- 3 It wasn't a good party. We invited people but came.
- 4 Come on! We've got very time and things to do.
- 5 We're ecological. We recycle rubbish and use very water.
- 6 There's information on the Internet, but unfortunately, there are really good sites.

4d Circle the correct answer.



Dear Monica,

I'm really excited about your visit! I can't believe that in (0) *a little / a few* days you'll be here in Stockholm!

(1) *How much / How many* days do you plan to stay here? There are (2) *lots of / much* things to do in Stockholm, so I think you should stay for a week.

Don't forget to change (3) *a little / a few* money before you arrive so you can buy a bus ticket to get to my house. It doesn't cost (4) *much / many*.

By the way, (5) *how much / how many* room do you have in your bag? Could you bring (6) *a little / a few* tea with you? Thanks, and see you on Saturday!

Love, Ingrid