# Unit 6 · Talking about Quantity

STUDY NOTES

## The unit in one line

- **quantity** = how much or how many of something there is

## Song: months and seasons

- **twelve months** in a row; use each one well, welcome it, let it go
- names **four seasons**: spring, summer, autumn, winter; each is a gift
- Nepal also counts **six seasons** (ऋतु), about two months each
- rhymes: *go / row, fear / tear*

## Reading I: At a Grocery Store

- **Kind:** a conversation between **Sanju** (the customer) and a **grocer**, in the **morning**

| She asks for | What happens | She buys |
|---|---|---|
| basmati rice | doesn't like its look | **5 kg of Long Grain Rice** |
| DDC powdered milk | no DDC; only **Kabhreli Milk** | **500 gm** of Kabhreli |
| a tin of ghee | only **fresh** ghee; the grocer says it is the best | **1 kg**, Rs. 1,150 |
| spices | | a **200 gm packet** |
| toothpaste | | a **tube** |

- **altogether: Rs. 1,580**
- **brand** = a company's name for what it sells (DDC = Dairy Development Corporation)
- she never says just *rice*: she gives a **quantity**: *5 kg of, a packet of, a tube of*
- **kg** kilogram, **gm** (or g) gram; 1 kg = 1,000 g; 500 g = half a kilo

## Reading II: Bright and Beautiful (a poem)

- **Poet:** Cecil Frances Alexander, Irish, **1848**; first a **hymn** (a song praising God) for children
- **Main idea:** everything bright and beautiful, and every **creature**, was made by God, the **creator**
- looks closely at small things: flowers that open, birds that sing, their colors and **tiny** wings
- a verse on people: a rich man in his **castle**, a poor man at his gate, each with his **fate** (many people today disagree with it; many hymn books leave it out)
- ends: we have **eyes** to see all this, and a voice to praise its maker, who made all things **well**
- rhymes on every second line: *small / all, sings / wings, gate / fate, tell / well*

## Key words

**grocer**: runs a shop selling food and things for the home.

**brand**: a company's name for what it makes.

**powdered**: made into a fine powder.

**fresh**: newly made, not old or in a tin.

**quality**: how good something is.

**expensive**: costing a lot.

**altogether**: all added together.

**creature / creator**: a living animal / one who makes something new.

**castle**: a big stone building.

**tiny**: very small.

**lowly**: low and poor.

**fate**: what happens to a person in life.

## Grammar I: how much and how many

- **countable nouns**: one onion, two onions; have a plural
- **uncountable nouns**: rice, milk, water, money, sugar, dust, mud; no plural, no *a*
- count an uncountable thing by its **weight** or **container**:
  - *5 kg of rice*
  - *a glass of water*
  - *a packet of spices*
  - *a loaf of bread*
  - *a tube of toothpaste*

| | Countable | Uncountable |
|---|---|---|
| ask | **How many…?** | **How much…?** |
| noun | plural | no -s |
| example | *How many eggs?* | *How much milk?* |

- **money** uncountable (*how much money*), **rupees** countable (*how many rupees*)

- **lots of** goes with both: *lots of clothes, lots of sugar*

**Plurals**

- most nouns: **-s**: *books*
- -s, -sh, -ch, -x: **-es**: *buses, boxes*
- consonant + y → **-ies**: *babies*; vowel + y: **-s**: *keys*
- -f, -fe → often **-ves**: *wolves, knives, thieves, leaves*
- -o → often **-es**: *mangoes, tomatoes, potatoes*
- inside change: *child → children, tooth → teeth, foot → feet, man → men*
- no change: *sheep, deer*

## Grammar II: a or an?

- **a / an** = one; with a **singular countable** noun not talked about before
- the **sound** of the next word decides, not the letter:

| Use | before | Examples |
|---|---|---|
| **a** | a consonant sound | *a book, a university, a one-rupee coin* |
| **an** | a vowel sound | *an apple, an engineer, an hour, an honest man* |

- the word right after decides: *an engineer*, but *a good engineer*
- no *a* with uncountable nouns or plurals: *some rice, some books* (write X)

## Pronunciation: consonant clusters

- two consonants together, **no vowel between**:
  - *price*, not *pa-rice*
  - *sky*, not *i-sky*
  - *brand*
  - *blackboard*
  - *company, important* (mp)
  - *symbolic* (mb)
  - *faster* (st)

## Speaking: asking about quantity

- *How many animals are grazing? — Ten.*
- *How much sugar do you need? — A kilogram.*
- *How much money is in your pocket? — Fifty rupees.*
- *fruit* all together is uncountable: *how much fruit*

## Writing: a shopping trip paragraph

- **say:**
  - where you went
  - what you bought
  - who with
  - how much of each
- **in order:** *first, then, finally*
- a quantity with each thing: *a packet of tea, a loaf of bread, a kilogram of ghee, a dozen eggs*
- **returned home**, not *returned back home*

## Listening: speaking English

- the speaker is a bit **shy**; many friends don't worry about mistakes or grammar
- his teacher says: **learn by doing**
- he has **short** talks with himself, and makes up short stories and says them aloud in his room

**COMMON MISTAKES**

✗ How much eggs?
✓ **How many** eggs?

✗ lots of sugars, some moneys
✓ lots of **sugar**, some **money**

✗ fifty boy, three mango
✓ fifty **boys**, three **mangoes**

✗ childs, tooths, shelfs
✓ **children, teeth, shelves**

✗ a elderly man, a hour
✓ **an** elderly man, **an** hour

✗ an university
✓ **a** university

✗ a rice, a books
✓ **some** rice, **some** books