Unit 6 · Talking about Quantity

HARDER PRACTICE QUESTIONS · ANSWER KEY

Full marks 26

Give the marks for the points in the marking scheme; an answer in other words that says the same is right.

1 How much or how many?

ANSWER HA · 6

Tests: *how much* or *how many* is decided by the word right after it (can you count it?), not by how the thing is sold; *money* is uncountable, *rupees* countable.

a. **How many** tomatoes (we can count tomatoes: one tomato, two tomatoes)
b. **How much** rice (we can't count rice grain by grain)
c. **How many** packets (we count the packets, not the rice)
d. **How much** money
e. ***How many rupees are in your pocket?*** (*rupees* are counted, so *how many*, and more than one rupee, so *are*)
f. **No.** Look at the word right after the gap and ask, "Can I say *two of them*?" *Two tomatoes* is right, so *how many tomatoes*, however we buy them. If she means the weight, she can ask *How many kilograms of tomatoes?*

MARKING SCHEME

✓ a. *How many* (tomatoes can be counted).
✓ b. *How much*.
✓ c. *How many* (the packets are counted).
✓ d. *How much*.
✓ e. *How many rupees are …?*
✓ f. No: tomatoes can be counted (*two tomatoes*), so *how many*, whatever they are bought by.

2 More than one

ANSWER A · 5

Tests: choosing the plural rule for each noun when the rules are mixed: *-es*, *y → ies* only after a consonant, *-f/-fe → -ves*, *-o → -es*, the special words and the ones that don't change; then sorting the words by the kind of change, which only a student who knows why each plural is right can do.

a. **thieves, boxes, mangoes, knives, keys, sheep, babies, children, days, teeth**
b. **sheep, children, teeth.** *Sheep* doesn't change at all: one sheep, two sheep. *Child* and *tooth* are special words to learn: *child* takes *-ren* (*children*), and *tooth* changes inside the word (*teeth*). (Every other word follows one of the four rules: *keys* and *days* just *-s*, because a vowel comes before the *y*; *babies -ies*, after a consonant; *boxes* and *mangoes -es*; *thieves* and *knives -ves*.)

MARKING SCHEME

✓ *thieves, boxes* (half a mark each).
✓ *mangoes, knives* (half a mark each).
✓ *keys, sheep* (half a mark each).
✓ *babies, children, days, teeth* (all four).
✓ b. *sheep* (no change), *children* and *teeth* (special words: *-ren*, and a change inside).

3 A or an?

ANSWER

Tests: *a* or *an* is decided by the first **sound** of the next word, not its letter, and the next word may be an adjective, not the noun; no *a* with uncountable nouns or plurals.

a. **an** hour (the *h* is silent: it starts with a vowel sound)

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b. **a** hotel (we say the *h*)
c. **an** umbrella
d. **a** new umbrella (*new* is the next word)
e. **an** orange umbrella (*orange* is the next word, and it starts with a vowel sound)
f. **a** uniform ("yoo", a consonant sound)
g. **an** honest girl (silent *h*)
h. **X** rice, or *some rice* (uncountable)
i. **X** eggs, or *some eggs* (plural)
j. *University* starts with the sound "yoo", a **consonant** sound, so *a university*. *Umbrella* starts with the sound "uh", a vowel sound, so *an umbrella*. The sound decides, not the letter.

MARKING SCHEME

✓ a. *an*, b. *a* (half a mark each).
✓ c. *an*, d. *a*; e. *an*, f. *a* (all four).
✓ g. *an*, h. X (half a mark each).
✓ i. X.
✓ j. *University* starts with a "yoo" (consonant) sound; *umbrella* with a vowel sound: the sound decides.

4 Checking the bill

ANSWER HA · 6

Tests: the container words that count uncountable things; *500 g* is half a kilogram; reading a bill line by line and checking a total; *how much* and *how many* chosen by the noun.

a. a **packet** of tea; two **loaves** of bread (*loaf* → *loaves*).
b. 500 g is **half a kilogram**, so half of Rs. 160: **Rs. 80**.
c. Rice 2 × 90 = 180; lentils 80; eggs 12 × 20 = 240; tea 120; bread 2 × 60 = 120. Altogether 180 + 80 + 240 + 120 + 120 = **Rs. 740**. He read the **lentils** wrong: he charged Rs. 160, the price of a **whole kilogram**, for 500 g, which is only half a kilogram. That is Rs. 80 too much: 740 + 80 = 820.
d. 1,000 − 740 = **Rs. 260**.
e. For example: *How much change did you get?* (or *How much money is left?*) and *How many eggs did you buy?*

MARKING SCHEME

✓ a. *packet* and *loaves* (both).
✓ b. Half a kilogram, so Rs. 80.
✓ c. The total is Rs. 740.
✓ c. The lentils: he charged for a whole kilogram, not half (Rs. 160, not 80).
✓ d. Rs. 260.
✓ e. A correct *How much* question with an uncountable noun and a correct *How many* question with a plural noun.

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5 Writing about the shopping

ANSWER HA · 4

Tests: a shopping paragraph in order, with a quantity word for every thing bought, uncountable nouns counted by their containers, and *returned home* (not *returned back*).

Yesterday I went to the shop near our house. First, I bought two kilograms of rice and half a kilogram of lentils. Then I bought a dozen eggs and a packet of tea. Finally, I bought two loaves of bread. Everything cost Rs. 740. The shopkeeper gave me Rs. 260 change, and I returned home.

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ Where he went, and everything bought with its quantity (*two kilograms of*, *a packet of* …).
- ✓ No *a* with an uncountable noun (*a rice*, *a tea*), and plurals right (*loaves*, *eggs*).
- ✓ *First*, *then* and *finally*, in a sensible order.
- ✓ An ending after paying, without *returned back*.

Marks by level	Knowledge	Understanding	Application	Higher ability	Total
Marks	0	0	5	21	**26**

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