

What Are French Partitive Articles?

Worksheet

Partitive articles (du, de la, des) express 'some' or 'a quantity of' uncountable nouns in French. Use 'du' for masculine, 'de la' for feminine, and 'des' for plural.

Questions

1. Choose the correct partitive article: 'Je voudrais ____ lait'
A) de la
B) du
C) des
D) une
2. What do partitive articles express?
A) one specific item
B) some / a quantity
C) all of something
D) no amount
3. 'De la' is used for...
A) masculine
B) feminine uncountable
C) plural
D) all nouns
4. Difference: 'une pomme' vs. 'du jus'?
A) none
B) first is countable, second is uncountable quantity
C) both are countable
D) both use partitive
5. Fill in: 'Je bois ____ eau chaque jour' (I drink some water every day)
6. Complete: 'Il mange ____ pain et ____ beurre' (He eats some bread and some butter)
7. Translate: 'There is some sugar in the coffee' → 'Il y a ____ sucre'
8. Define: When do you use partitive articles?
9. Define: What does 'du' mean?
10. Define: What does 'de la' mean?

Answer Key

1. B) du — 'Lait' (milk) is masculine uncountable → 'du lait'.
2. B) some / a quantity — Partitive articles mean 'some' or 'an amount of' uncountable things.
3. B) feminine uncountable — 'De la' marks feminine uncountable nouns: de la farine, de l'eau.
4. B) first is countable, second is uncountable quantity — 'Une pomme' (indefinite, one item); 'du jus' (partitive, some juice).
5. 'Eau' (water) is feminine and uncountable Use 'de la' Answer: 'Je bois de l'eau'
6. 'Pain' (bread) is masculine uncountable → 'du' 'Beurre' (butter) is masculine uncountable → 'du' Answer: 'du pain et du beurre'
7. 'Sucre' (sugar) is masculine and uncountable Use 'du' Answer: 'Il y a du sucre'
8. Use them before uncountable (mass) nouns to express 'some': du lait, de la farine.
9. 'Du' = 'some' (masculine). It's a contraction of 'de le'.
10. 'De la' = 'some' (feminine): de la confiture, de la sauce.

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