

There are many ways of expressing quantity: numbers (**deux** crêpes), the **indefinite article** (**un** tatou, an armadillo), and the **partitive article** (**du** lait, some milk). Quantities may also be expressed using adverbs and adverbial expressions, such as **assez** (enough), **beaucoup** (a lot), or **trop** (too much).



When used with nouns, expressions of quantity are always followed by **de** (**d'** if the noun begins with a vowel sound).

Tammy et Tex reçoivent des amis ce soir. Tammy est dans la cuisine. Tex regarde la télévision.

Tammy and Tex are having some friends over tonight. Tammy is in the kitchen. Tex is watching television.

Tammy: **Une douzaine de** crêpes, c'est **trop** pour quatre personnes?

Tammy: A dozen crepes, that's too much for four people?

Tex: Mais non, Tammy, ce n'est pas **assez**. Il faut préparer **beaucoup de** crêpes.

Tex: No, Tammy, it's not too much. You can never prepare too many crepes.

Here is a list of common adverbial expressions of quantity:

**assez de**, enough  
**beaucoup de**, a lot  
**un peu de**, a little

**plein de**, many  
**un tas de**, a lot of  
**trop de**, too many

Note that these expressions of quantity do not change in negative sentences:

Tex: On ne prépare jamais **trop de** crêpes.

Tex: One never prepares too many crepes!

One can express quantity by using specific nouns or adverbs of quantity, as well as measures of weight, distance, or volume, especially in reference to food. For example:

**une boîte de**, a can (box) of  
**un bol de**, a bowl of  
**un bout de**, a piece (end) of  
**une bouteille de**, a bottle of  
**une cuillère de**, a teaspoon of  
**une douzaine de**, a dozen  
**50 grammes de**, 50 grams of  
**un kilo de**, a kilo of

**un litre de**, a liter of  
**une livre de**, a pound of  
**un morceau de**, a piece of  
**une part de**, a serving of  
**une pincée de**, a pinch of  
**une tasse de**, a cup of  
**une tranche de**, a slice of  
**un verre de**, a glass of

The definite article (**le, la, les**) may be used with these expressions to indicate a quantity of a **specific** item. Remember that **de + le** and **de + les** form the contractions **du** and **des** respectively.

un morceau **du** gâteau qu'Edouard a préparé  
un verre **du** vin rouge, pas **du** blanc  
beaucoup **des** invités parlent français

a piece of **the** cake that Edouard made  
a glass of **the** red wine, not **the** white one  
many of **the** guests speak French





Listen to the dialogue:



Tammy lit la recette: Pour **une douzaine de** crêpes, mélanger **400 grammes de** farine et deux oeufs. Ajouter ensuite **un demi litre de** lait, **une cuillère de** sel et **une cuillère d'**huile.

Tammy reads the recipe: For a dozen crêpes, mix 400 grams of flour and two eggs. Then add half a liter of milk, a spoonful of salt and a spoonful of oil.

Tammy: Dis, Tex! Arrête de faire le légume devant la télé! Viens m'aider!

Tammy: Hey, Tex! Stop vegging out in front of the TV! Come and help me!

Tex: Comment? J'ai fait mon travail, moi! Le **bouquet de** roses et **la bouteille de** cidre sont sur la table!

Tex: What? I did my job! The bouquet of flowers and the bottle of cider are on the table!



Exercices

### fill in the blanks

Fill in the blank with one of the following expressions of quantity : un bouquet de, assez de, une tasse de, peu de, trop de, beaucoup de, un verre de. Some expressions may be used more than once.

1. Joe-Bob : Tu as 1 dollar Tex? Je n'ai pas \_\_\_\_\_ argent pour acheter mon doughnut!
2. Tex : Je suis un grand poète. J'ai \_\_\_\_\_ talent.
3. Corey : Je suis seul ('alone'). J'ai \_\_\_\_\_ amis.
4. Edouard : Je prends toujours \_\_\_\_\_ café après le repas.
5. Paw-Paw : Je bois \_\_\_\_\_ vin à tous les repas.
6. Tammy : Je suis grosse parce que je mange \_\_\_\_\_ bonbons.
7. Tex : \_\_\_\_\_ roses s'il vous plaît.
8. Tammy : Tex, quand tu bois \_\_\_\_\_ vin, tu es arrogant!
9. Tammy : J'ai \_\_\_\_\_ chance d'être la copine de Tex!
10. Tammy : Tex, tu n'aimes pas la maison? Tu passes \_\_\_\_\_ temps sur le campus!
11. Bette : Tex est original. Il y a \_\_\_\_\_ tatous comme lui!
12. Joe-Bob : Ce hamburger manque ('lacks') de ketchup! Il n'y a pas \_\_\_\_\_ ketchup dans ce hamburger!