7.5 Grammar

Quantifiers

I can understand countable and uncountable nouns and use appropriate quantifiers

1 In pairs, discuss the questions.

1 Which of these types of shoes have you got?

ballet flats | boots | flip flops
high heels | sandals | trainers

2 Where is the best shoe shop in your city?

3 When was the last time you bought a pair of shoes?

2 Read the text. What happens when you buy a pair of TOMS shoes?

Do you have **too many pairs** of shoes? **How many pairs** do you need? Most people have **a few pairs** of trainers, some smart shoes, a pair of boots and **some sandals**. But can you imagine living without **any shoes** at all?

Blake Mycoskie was shocked when he found out that **a lot of children** around the world were growing up without **any shoes**. So he set up a company called Shoes for Tomorrow (TOMS). Every time he sells a pair, he gives a pair of new shoes to a child in need. He doesn't have to do **much advertising** – when people hear about TOMS, they tell one another. Over the years, he's given **lots of shoes** to people in need – more than a million, in fact. TOMS has become the One for One™ company who give eyewear as well as shoes to people around the world. With **a little imagination** and **a lot of hard work**, Mycoskie has transformed the lives of a lot of people.

3 Look at the examples of nouns and quantifiers in blue in Exercise 2. Which of the underlined nouns are countable and which are uncountable?

4 Read the GRAMMAR FOCUS. Which rules should be completed with *countable* or *uncountable*?

GRAMMAR FOCUS

Quantifiers

You use different expressions to talk about quantity:

- With [1] [?] nouns you use:
  very few / a few / too many / How many?
- With [2] [?] nouns you use:
  very little / a little / too much / How much?
- With both [3] [?] and [4] [?] nouns you use:
  any / some / a lot of / lots of

Note:
Usually, you use *a few*, *a little* or *some* in affirmative sentences and *many*, *much* or *any* in negative sentences and questions.

5 Read the text. Which quantifiers complete the text correctly?

FAQ

Q: How did TOMS begin?

A: When Blake Mycoskie was twenty-nine, he took [1]*a little / a few* time off work to go travelling. He met a charity worker, and she told him how [2]*much / many* children in developing countries were without shoes. This gave Mycoskie an idea for a shoe company, and a way to help [3]*some / any* of these children.

Q: How [4]*much / many* difference can a simple pair of shoes make to so [5]*much / many* children's lives?

A: A pair of shoes can make [6]*many / a lot of* difference to a child. Firstly, there are [7]*lots of / a little* diseases in the soil, and shoes protect children. Secondly, [8]*very few / very little* schools allow children to attend classes without shoes. So shoes help children to get an education.

6 In your notebook, write the correct Present Simple forms of the verbs in brackets.

1 There [?] (be) lots of shoe shops near here.
2 A lot of people [?] (do) their shopping online.
3 There [?] (be) a lot of pollution in our city.
4 A lot of fast food [?] (be) bad for you.
5 Lots of shops [?] (be) closed on Sundays.
6 A lot of people in my country [?] (know) about TOMS.

7 Read REMEMBER THIS. Then, in your notebook, rewrite the sentences in Exercise 6 replacing *a lot of/ lots of* with *very little* or *very few*. Which sentences from Exercises 6 and 7 are true for you?

1 There are very few shoe shops near here.

REMEMBER THIS

little money = not much money
few friends = not many friends
BUT
a little money = some money
a few friends = some friends

8 In your notebook, write negative sentences using *not much* or *not many*. On a typical school day, which sentence – affirmative or negative – is true for you?

1 I eat a lot of bread. → I don't eat much bread.
2 I send a lot of texts. → [?]
3 I drink a lot of water. → [?]
4 I do a lot of homework. → [?]
5 I spend a lot of money. → [?]
6 I talk to a lot of people. → [?]

9 In pairs, ask each other questions about your typical school day. Use *How much ...?* or *How many ...?* with the topics in Exercise 8 and the topics in the box.

watch / television | spend / time online | get / sleep
do / exercise | have / lessons | listen to / music

A: How much bread do you eat?
B: Lots. How about you?
A: Very little. I don't like bread.

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