

Fact Sheet

Partitive Articles, de, de la, du de l', des

Objectifs de la leçon

1. to learn about partitive articles
2. to practise using them in context
3. to practise your French pronunciation

Thème

In French, partitive articles vary depending on different factors.

- ▶ J'ai mis **de la** confiture sur ma tranche de pain.
- ▶ I have put some jam on my slice of bread.

The partitive article **de la** is used in front of a feminine noun.

- ▶ J'ai mis **du** beurre sur ma tranche de pain.
- ▶ I have put some butter on my slice of bread.

The partitive article **du** is used in front of a masculine noun.

- ▶ J'ai mis **des** morceaux de chocolat sur ma tranche de pain.
- ▶ I have put some pieces of chocolate on my slice of bread.

The partitive article **des** is used in front of a plural noun.

- ▶ J'ai mis de l'huile **d'**olive sur ma tranche de pain.
- ▶ I have put some olive oil on my slide of bread.

The partitive article **de l'** is used when the noun that follows begins with a vowel or a silent h.

Whereas the partitive “some” is not always required in English, it is needed in French.

Please note that when using a negative in a sentence, the partitive articles **de la, du, des, de l'** become **de** or **d'**.

- ▶ Nous ne mangeons plus **de** viande.
- ▶ We no longer eat meat.

Exemples

du (+ masculine noun)

- ▶ Je voudrais **du** vin rouge, s'il vous plaît.
- ▶ I would like some red wine please.

de la (+ feminine noun)

- ▶ Nous buvons **de la** limonade.
- ▶ We are drinking some lemonade.

des (+ plural noun)

- ▶ Anna prépare une salade de fruits avec **des** bananes, **des** pommes et **des** fraises.
- ▶ Anna is preparing a fruit salad with some bananas, apples and strawberries

du (+ masculine noun)

- ▶ Je mets **du** beurre sur ma tranche de pain.
- ▶ I am putting some butter on my slice of bread.

de la (+ feminine noun)

- ▶ Il a mangé **de la** confiture de fraises.
- ▶ He ate strawberry jam.

des (+ plural noun)

- ▶ Nous préférons manger **des** céréales au petit-déjeuner.
- ▶ We prefer eating cereals at breakfast.

de (partitive article with a **negative**)

- ▶ Je n'ai plus **de** lait.
- ▶ I have no milk left.