

## 7-7 Structures

### 7-7a Structure 7.1

#### More on articles *Les articles définis, indéfinis et le partitif*

In French, the partitive article is used to refer to some or a part of something that can't be counted (a non-count noun). It's frequently used with food items.

de la viande	<i>some meat</i>	du vin	<i>some wine</i>
de l'eau	<i>some water</i>	des fruits	<i>some fruits</i>

The partitive is also used with abstract nouns.

Il a <b>du</b> courage et <b>de la</b> patience.	<i>He has courage and patience.</i>
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In English, the word *some* can be omitted. In French, the partitive article is required.

de + le → du	Vous prenez du vin.	<i>You're having (some) wine.</i>
de + la → de la	Il y a de la soupe à l'oignon.	<i>There's onion soup.</i>
de l' → de l'	Je bois de l'eau minérale.	<i>I drink mineral water.</i>
de + les → des	Je mange des céréales.	<i>I eat cereal.</i>

In negative sentences, the partitive article becomes **de** (or **d'** before a vowel sound).

Il n'y a pas <b>de</b> tarte.	<i>There isn't any pie.</i>
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Elle ne mange pas *She doesn't eat*  
**d'ail.** *garlic.*

### Choosing the article

1. Verbs that frequently require the partitive article are **prendre, manger, boire, avoir,** and **acheter.**
2. With some nouns, the use of the indefinite article or the partitive can produce a slight change in meaning.

Je voudrais <b>un</b> café.	<i>I'd like <b>a</b> cup of coffee.</i>
Je voudrais <b>du</b> café.	<i>I'd like <b>(some)</b> coffee.</i>

3. Preference verbs such as **aimer, préférer, adorer,** and **détester** are used with the definite article (**le, la, les**).

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