Chapter 7: Bien manger, bien vivre: 7-7 Structures

Book Title: Atelier

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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 l'eau some water des fruits some fruits	de la viande	some meat	du vin	some wine
	de l'eau	some water	des fruits	some fruits

The partitive is also used with abstract nouns.

Il a **du** courage et **de la**He has courage and patience.

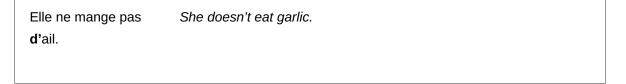
patience.

In English, the word some can be omitted. In French, the partitive article is required.

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

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

Il n'y a pas **de** tarte. There isn't any pie.



Choosing the article

- 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 **un café.**l'd like **a cup of coffee.**Je voudrais **du café.**l'd like **(some) coffee.**

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

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