



Expansion Activities
Basic English Grammar, 3rd Edition
Chapter 7: Count and Noncount Nouns

Activity: Shopping for a Recipe

Materials needed: None



Description: In pairs or groups of three, students think of a recipe for something they want to cook/prepare. If possible, match students with similar ethnic backgrounds because it is easier for them to come up with a common food. If students are of different backgrounds, and they can't agree on a recipe, suggest an omelet, a green salad, or a sub sandwich.

When students agree on a recipe to prepare, one person in the pair/group acts as a scribe to write down the ingredients and the measurements of the ingredients they will need. Check them at this point to make sure they have the vocabulary they need for things like “a pinch,” “teaspoon,” “tablespoon,” “slice,” etc.

Next, instruct the class that they now have to prepare a shopping list to purchase the ingredients they will need. On this list, they should include the retail packaging/measurement of the item. For example, the recipe may call for one teaspoon of salt, and the shopping list would then include a box of salt. If the recipe requires two cups of milk, the shopping list would include a carton/container/gallon of milk. A different scribe should take over for this part, writing items in the list.

To close this activity, write a creative dialogue about the recipe, the shopping list, and what is needed. One possible scenario: one person is going to the store and the other person is telling him or her what they need to buy. This scenario will use the packaging/measurement vocabulary. Another dialogue scenario is a person passing on a special family recipe to another. This will utilize smaller units of measure like “a cup of.” On the board, write the language that you would like the students to incorporate like “How much/many?” “a little/a few,” and “some.”