

INTERMEDIATE. LESSON #26. À LA CAISSE

- Vous avez terminé ? Nous aussi, justement. Il n'y a pas trop de monde à la caisse. Profitons-en.
- Vous avez tout trouvé ?
- Oui, je crois. J'ai rajouté du jambon et quelques surgelés.
- Moi j'ai acheté un petit seau et une pelle pour les vacances d'été. Euh... Est-ce que tu prévois d'organiser un goûter d'anniversaire prochainement ?
- Non, pourquoi ?
- A cause de la dizaine de paquets de gâteaux et de la vingtaine de paquets de bonbons qui sont dans ton caddy.
- Victor !

TRANSLATION

- Are you finished ? We too, good timing. There are not too many people on the checkout, let's jump on it !
- Did you find everything ?
- Yes, I think we did. I added some ham and frozen food.
- I bought a small bucket and a shovel for the summer holiday. Um... do you plan to organize a birthday party, soon ?
- No, I don't, why ?
- Because there are a dozen of cookies boxes and about twenty candy bags in your cart.
- Victor !



When we are not sure about something, when we're looking for a word or when we're surprised, we use the interjection *ehh*. Some French people used *ehh* a lot and it can become annoying.



Jambon (masc.) : ham.
Surgelés (masc.) : frozen food.
Seau (masc.) : bucket.
Pelle (fém.) : shovel.



Une *dizaine* means *about ten, ten or more*. Une *vingtaine* means *about twenty, twenty or more*. They are **approximate numbers**.

*A cause de la **dizaine** de paquets de gâteaux
et de la **vingtaine** de paquets de bonbons qui sont dans ton caddy.*

They are easy to form : you take the cardinal number, you drop the final *e* if there is one then you add *-aine* and you have the approximate number you need.

Trente : trent- : trentaine ; quarante : quarant- : quarantaine ; and so on.

Some numbers are more used than others : you can find *huitaine, dizaine, douzaine, quinzaine, vingtaine, trentaine, quarantaine, cinquante, soixantaine* and *centaine*.

We use these numbers with the feminine determinant : *la dizaine, une dizaine*. At the plural form we add a final *-s* as usual and we say : *des dizaines, plusieurs dizaines*.

We use the preposition *de* when we want to express what we are talking about :

*Une dizaine **de** paquets de gâteaux.
Une vingtaine **de** paquets de bonbons.*

Attention !

There is an exception with *mille* (1000) : we say *un millier*. And you can notice this is a masculine noun.

Attention !

English people apparently prefer to speak about dozens of something (literally *douzaines* in French) but French people prefer to use *dizaines*. So, don't be surprised if you notice a little change in the translation !



Translate in English :

1. Il y a une quinzaine de kilomètres.
2. Cet homme a une soixantaine d'années.
3. Elle a déjà mangé une dizaine de bonbons.

Translate in French :

1. Give me about twenty paper sheets.
2. I repeated that about fifty times.
3. This man made about thirty movies.

Feuille de papier (fém.) : (paper) sheet.

Film (masc.) : movie, film.