

The preposition **da** links an expression of quantity to a substantival part of the sentence "of substance" (something unlimited and undefined):

quantity		"substance"
unu kilogramo	da	pano
litro	da	lakto
skatolo	da	rizo
amazon	da	komencantoj
du milionoj	da	rubloj
iom	da	valizoj
tiom	da	feliĉo
multe	da	problemoj

The expression of quantity shows how much of something there is. It is a substantival clause, an adverb of quantity, or an adverbial particle of quantity.

The expression "of substance" shows what the quantity consists of:

- En la botelo estas litro da lakto. - In the bottle there is a liter of milk.
Ŝi aĉetis faskon da ligno. - She bought a bundle of wood.
Tiu ĉi rivero havas ducent kilometrojn da longo. - This river has a length of two hundred kilometers.
Mi neniam prenas kun mi multon da pakajo. - I never take a lot of luggage with me.
En la urbo troviĝas multe da aŭtoj. - In the city there are many cars.
La riĉulo havas multe da mono. - The rich person has a lot of money.
Li havas pli da mono, ol li povas kalkuli. - He has more money than he can count.

Numerals — unu, du, tri, kvar, kvin, ses, sep, ok, naŭ, dek, cent, mil — do not require **da**. They are used as an epithet of a noun:

- Tie loĝas du Esperantistoj. - Two Esperantists live there.
Mi havas cent pomojn. - I have a hundred apples.
Tiu ĉi vilaĝo havas du mil loĝantojn. - This village has two thousand inhabitants.

Number words that are nouns like *miliono*, *millardo*, *deko* and *cento* however do require **da**:

- Tiu ĉi urbo havas milionon da loĝantoj. - This city has a million inhabitants.
En la kesto estas cento da pomoj. - In this box there are a hundred apples.

Normally a **da** expression is found immediately after its expression of quantity, but in some cases the **da** expression stands alone. Then, normally, the expression of quantity is found in another place in the phrase (due to unusual word order). The word indicating quantity can, however, sometimes be understood through context:

- Da ŝafoj kaj bovoj li havis multe. = Li havis multe da ŝafoj kaj bovoj. - Of sheep and cattle they have a lot.
Da pulvo ni havas kiom vi volas. = Ni havas tiom da pulvo, kiom vi volas. - Powder we have as much as you want.

The N-ending shouldn't be used after da

After the preposition **da** never use an N-ending. The substance in a **da**-expression is never itself the object. However the quantitative expression before **da** can be the grammatical object: Li portas multon da valizoj. (He carries a lot of baggage.)

But the expression of quantity is often a quantitative adverb or a quantitative adverbial particle, which can't receive the N-ending, even when it has the role of the object:

- La riĉulo havas multe da mono. = La riĉulo havas multon da mono. - The rich person has a lot of money.
Absolutely not: ~~La riĉulo havas multe da monon.~~

Kiom da pano vi volas? = Kiel grandan kvanton da pano vi volas? = How much bread do you want? = What quantity of bread do you want?

La riĉulo havas **multe da mono**. = La riĉulo havas **multon da mono**. The rich person has a lot of money.

Absolutely not: ~~La riĉulo havas multe da monon.~~

Kiom da pano vi volas? = **Kiel grandan kvanton da pano** vi volas? - How much bread do you want? =What quantity of bread do you want?

Absolutely not: ~~Kiom da panon vi volas?~~

When shouldn't da be used?

If the phrase isn't talking about quantity, measure, or number, but, for example, about type, **da** should not be used; ordinarily, **de** is used here:

Ni manĝis **specon de fiŝo**. - We ate a species of fish.

The word **speco** (species, type) can never indicate a quantity, a measurement or a number. So never say ~~speco da...~~:

Ĉe ni estas **manko de akvo**. - We are out of water.

The word **manko** never expresses a quantity, measurement or number.

Pro **perdo de kuraĝo** ili ne venis. - For loss of courage they didn't come.

The word **perdo** never expresses a quantity, measure, or number.

Never use **da** with relation to an adjective, even if it expresses quantity, measure, or number:

Ni renkontis **multajn homojn**. (= Ni renkontis **multe/multon da homoj**.) - We met many people.

Quantitative adjectives like **multa(j)**, **kelka(j)**, **pluraj** and others are linked directly to the noun being measured as an epithet without **da**.

La botelo estas **plena de/je akvo**. - The bottle is full of water.

The adjective **plena** in any case does not express a quantity, but a state. Also the adverb **plene** does not express a quantity: **Tie estas plene de/je homoj**. Never say ~~plena da...~~ or ~~plene da...~~

Tie ni trovis ĉambron **plenan de/je rubaĵoj**. - There we found a room full of garbage.

A clause with a **determiner** — **la** (the), **tiu** (that), **ĉiu** (every), a possessive pronoun... — is defined, and is therefore limited and individualized (non-substantial). Therefore, **da** should not be used before those clauses; **de** or **el** should be used instead.

Ni manĝis **iom de/el la pano**. - We ate some of the bread.

Ili aĉetis **kelkajn botelojn de/el tiuj vinoj**. - They bought a few bottles of these wines.

A **personal pronoun** ordinarily shows one or several defined individuals. Therefore, **da** should not be used before a personal pronoun; **de** or **el** should be used instead:

Ni manĝis **iom de/el ĝi** (= el la pano). - We ate some of it (=some of the bread).

Ili aĉetis **kelkajn botelojn de/el ili** (= de/el tiuj vinoj). - They bought some bottles of them (of those wines).

If the quantity or number is already shown by a **numeral** or adjective, **da** should not be used; **de** or **el** are used instead:

Ŝi pagis **kotizon de cent eŭroj**. - She paid a few of one hundred euros.

The word **kotizo** does not express a quantity. But you can say **ŝi pagis cent eŭrojn da kotizo**.

Ni gustumis **tre multe de unu vino**. - We tasted a lot of one wine.

Ili manĝis **ĉiom de/el tuta bovo**. - They ate an awful lot of a whole cow. (Note:ĉiom = every amount, "ĉiom" is rarely used.)

Li trinkis **iom de/el kelkaj bieroj**. - He drank a bit out of several beers.

If a singular noun already clearly expresses a limited quantity, **da** should not be used:

Unu tago estas **tricent-sesdek-kvinono aŭ tricent-sesdek-sesono de jaro**. - One day is three hundred and sixty-fifth or three hundred and sixty-sixth of a year.

Jaro in itself shows a clearly limited time frame.

Ili fortranĉis **duonon de centimetro**. - They cut off a half of a centimeter.

Unu tago estas tricent-sesdek-kvinono aŭ tricent-sixty-six of a year.

Jaro in itself shows a clearly limited time frame.

Ĉi fortranĉis duonon de centimetro. - They cut off a half of a centimeter.

Some words express quantity in some cases, and something else in other cases. The intended meaning decides whether **da** or another preposition should be used:

Glaso de vino estas glaso, en kiu antaŭe sin trovis vino, aŭ kiun oni uzas por vino; glaso da vino estas glaso plena je vino. - A wine glass (glaso de vino) is a glass used for drinking wine; a glass of wine (glaso da vino) is a glass full of wine.

Glaso in one context represents an item, in another it represents a quantity.

Ĉi konstruis grandan reton da/de komputiloj. - They built a great network of computers.

If the phrase granda reto (great network) shows how many computers there were, then say da komputiloj. But if granda reto shows how the computers were connected (in the form of a great network), then say de komputiloj.

The use of **da**, therefore, depends on what the speaker wants to say. To help decide on the correct form, you may imagine a question that the sentence might answer:

Kiom da soldatoj estis? — Estis grupo da soldatoj! - How many soldiers were there? — It was a group of soldiers!

Kia grupo ĝi estas? — Ĝi estas grupo de soldatoj! - What kind of group is it? — It's a group of soldiers!

Kiom da rozoj vi volas? — Mi volas bukedon da rozoj! - How many roses do you want? — I want a bouquet of roses!

Kian bukedon vi volas? — Mi volas bukedon de rozoj! - What kind of bouquet do you want? — I want a bouquet of roses!

Often you have to check whether the following word is more important (→ **da**), or the preceding word (→ **de**). Grupo da soldatoj (a group of soldiers) are first of all soldiers (in sufficient quantity to form a group). Grupo de soldatoj are a group (composed of soldiers). Bukedo da rozoj (a bouquet of roses) are roses (in sufficient quantity to make a bouquet). Bukedo de rozoj (or bukedo el rozoj) is a bouquet (consisting of roses).

The use of the preposition **da** has evolved and changed somewhat over the history of Esperanto. In old texts, you can find **da** used in cases where it should be **de** or **el**, according to the explanations above.

"Da-ism"

In spoken Esperanto, an incorrect usage of **da** has become widespread; it may be referred to as "da-ism". In this usage, **da** is not followed by an expression whose role it can mark. **Da** ceases to be a preposition. In this case, **da** only shows that the expression preceding it relates to quantity:

~~Mi havas multe da.~~

~~Kiom da vi volas?~~ **Da** in this case does **not** relate to the following **vi**.

~~Ĉi kunportis tiom da, ke ĉiu povis ricevi iom da.~~

Among other sources, many textbooks are responsible for this misunderstanding; they teach **da** as if it belonged mainly to the word preceding it. But **da** refers primarily to what follows it.

Some assert that this usage refers to the normal process of understanding missing words through context:

~~Mi havas multe da mono.~~ → ~~Mi havas multe da.~~ - I have a lot of money.

~~Kiom da viando vi volas?~~ → ~~Kiom da vi volas?~~ - How much meat do you want?

When we leave out something because it is understood then we also leave out the preposition: Li estas instruisto de lingvoj. → Li estas instruisto. Not: Li estas instruisto de. Therefore if we want to leave out the word after **da**, then we also leave out **da**.

Just simply say: Mi havas multe. (I have a lot) Kiom vi volas? (How much do you want?) Ĉi kunportis tiom, ke ĉiu povis ricevi iom. (They brought so much that everyone can get some.) Words like multe, tiom and iom are quantities in themselves. They would never take **da** to express a meaning of quantity. If, however you want to show what the quantity consists of, then use **da**, but only with a noun following.