

## Pre- intermediate

**Describing things:** If you don't know a word in English, it is very useful to describe it to someone. Usually people can work out what you want to say!

### Example

It's small and expensive, its made of metal, plastic and glass. It's used to make phone calls, listen to music and check the internet.

It's a smartphone.

### Task

What does Takeshi want to buy? Match the words to the spaces.

Takeshi is staying for 2 weeks on a homestay in London with Susan's family. Susan and Takeshi are shopping in the supermarket. Takeshi wants to buy some things for his trip. What things does he want?

Takeshi: Thank you for letting me stay with your family.

Susan: Oh, no problem. It's a shame that the airport lost your bags. Anyway, let's buy some things for your stay. What do you need?

Takeshi: erm... first I need... how do you say in English?.... the stuff you use to wash your hands. It's white and hard.

Susan: oh, i think you mean \_\_\_\_1. What else?

Takeshi: I need the thing you use to listen to music on your phone. It's long and looks like a cable.

Susan: Oh, \_\_\_\_\_2, ok, anything else?

Takeshi: I want the things you use to eat with. They're long, thin and are made of wood. I use them everyday in Japan.

Susan: I think you mean \_\_\_\_ 3 we have some at my home. Is there anything else?

Takeshi: Yes, I want the thing you use for boiling water. It's heavy and made of metal and plastic. It's usually white.

Susan: Oh, you mean a \_\_\_\_ 4. You don't need to buy one, we have one at home. Ok, let's go shopping!

a kettle	chopsticks	earphones	soap
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\*it's a shame! = 残念ですね !

## **Describing things**

**1)**

**Thing** is used for countable objects

**Stuff** is used for uncountable objects

Match these objects to **thing** or **stuff**

<b>Thing (1,2,3,4)</b>	<b>Stuff (1,2,3,4)</b>

Soap, chopstick, oil, egg, cookie, cheese, razor, rice, kettle, banana, coffee

**2) Made of vs made from**

**Made of:** This is when the object **stays the same** as the original material/ ingredients

Example:

This table is made of wood. (wood and wooden table)  
Cans are made of aluminium (aluminium and aluminium can)

**Made from:** this is where the materials/ ingredients **change** when they become the object

Wine is made from grapes. (Grapes change and become wine)  
Tea is made from leaves. (Leaves change and become tea)

**Task:** Is it **made of** or **made from?**

- 1) Cheese is made \_\_\_\_ milk.
- 2) These doors are made \_\_\_\_ glass.
- 3) Glass is made \_\_\_\_ sand.
- 4) I wish I could buy a yacht, but I'm not made \_\_\_\_ money!
- 5) Paper is made \_\_\_\_ trees.
- 6) Her bag looks like leather, but it's actually made \_\_\_\_ plastic.

**It's used to + base verb**

**It's used for + \_\_\_\_ing**

\*They both have the same meaning

Example

Chopsticks are the things used to eat.  
Chopsticks are the things used for eating.

**Task: Use this table as a guide to describe things**

It's + adjective	It's made of/ it's made from	It's the <b>stuff/ thing</b> you use to (base verb) you use for ___ing
big— — — small	metal	to cook with/ for cooking
heavy— — — light	glass	to clean/ for cleaning
	paper	

**Task:**

**Zack is on holiday in Tokyo from America. What Japanese items is he describing?**

“ It's the thing you use to heat your legs in the winter. It's made of wood and it has a blanket. It looks like a coffee table.”

“It's the stuff people eat in Osaka, it's made from pork, flour and eggs, its round. It looks a bit like a big pancake. It tastes delicious!”

“It's an alcoholic drink. It's really sweet. It's clear and it's made from plums. I drank it with ice.”

“They're traditional Japanese sandals, they're made of wood. They're a little noisy and they look uncomfortable!”

“It's made of dried seaweed, it's thin and dark green. It's used for wrapping rice balls. I had some of this in my ramen yesterday.”

Practice making sentences yourself to describe things.