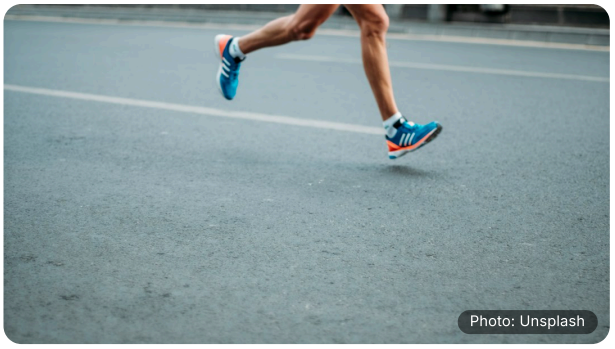
Barefoot mum wins race for daughters' books

LEVEL A2/B1


Photo: Unsplash

I. WARM-UP

1. Have you ever run in a race? Why or why not?
2. What school costs are hard for many families?
3. Who inspires you to work hard in your life?

II. KEY VOCABULARY

widow
A woman whose husband has died.

barefoot
With no shoes on your feet.

prize
Money or a thing you get for winning a competition.

materials
Things needed for study or work, like books and papers.

coaching
Training or teaching to help someone improve a skill.

recruitment
The process of finding and choosing people for jobs.

authorities
People in power, like government or officials, who make decisions.

assistance
Help or support given to someone.

III. READING

Ramabai Ranveer, a 47-year-old widow from Beed in Maharashtra, won her first 3km community run in August. She had no training and no running shoes, and she ran barefoot after her slippers slipped off on the track. Her goal was simple: win the prize to buy books and study materials for her two daughters.

The prize was 3,000 rupees. It was not much money, but videos of her run went viral and many people talked about how hard education can be for many families in India. One daughter, Pooja, trains for police recruitment at a coaching centre where Ramabai cooks. The other, Arati, studies in Nanded.

After the race, authorities noticed her story. Earlier this month, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant told local officials to give financial assistance of 50,000 rupees. Ramabai left school at 13 and wants her daughters to have more chances than she had.

Reading text adapted from reporting by **BBC News***: "Mum's viral barefoot race sparks debate over...". Original article linked at theenglishwire.com.*

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. How long was the race that Ramabai won?
2. Why did Ramabai enter the race?
3. How much was the prize money from the race?
4. What extra help did authorities order for her?
5. What does each of Ramabai's daughters do?

V. DISCUSSION

1. Is 3,000 rupees a big prize for study costs? Why?
2. What school costs do many families in your country face?
3. Should coaching be cheap or free for poor students? Why?
4. How can authorities give better assistance to students?

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Some/any/much/many

Use some/any for amounts and many/much for countable/uncountable nouns. Use some in positive sentences, any in questions or negatives; many = countable, much = uncountable.

*"Ramabai wanted to buy **some books** with the prize."*
*"Were there **any videos** of the run online?"*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

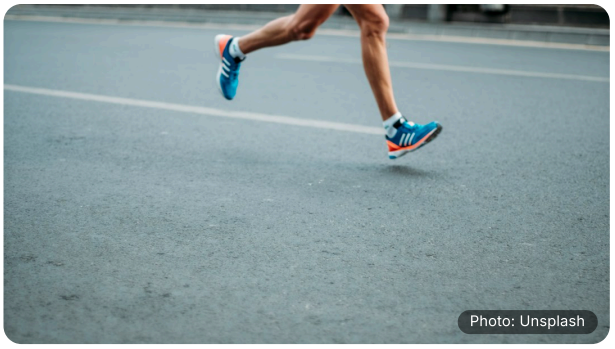
Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. She won (some / any) rupees to buy books. _____
2. She didn't have (some / any) running shoes. _____
3. There is not (much / many) time for recruitment training. _____
4. Officials were told to give her (any / some) money. _____
5. The community run had (many / much) runners in August. _____

Teacher's Notes

TEACHERS ONLY

These notes are designed to help you get the most out of this lesson. Please do not share this page with students.


Photo: Unsplash

I. LESSON GUIDE

- Timing: 8–10 minutes warm-up, 8–10 minutes vocabulary, 10 minutes reading, 10 minutes comprehension, 8–10 minutes grammar, 10 minutes discussion.
- Pre-teach place names (Beed, Maharashtra, Nanded) and numbers in rupees; drill pronunciation of Ramabai Ranveer and Surya Kant.
- The story touches money stress and inequality. Start discussion in pairs and say students may speak about the news, not their own lives.
- After reading, ask students to find examples of some/any/much/many in the text, then have them paraphrase the final paragraph using their own words.

II. DISCUSSION FACILITATION TIPS

1. Invite quick estimates in local currency, then ask for one example cost (books, fees).
2. Board 3–4 common costs from students and compare with those in the text.
3. Elicit pros and cons, then pair students to design one low-cost support idea.
4. Prompt concrete actions (book grants, travel passes) and ask who should deliver them.

III. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Writing: Write a 70-word thank-you note from Ramabai to the authorities for the assistance.

Survey: In groups, list five school costs and survey classmates on which is most difficult to pay.

IV. ANSWER KEY OVERVIEW

Comprehension questions: short factual answers from the text.

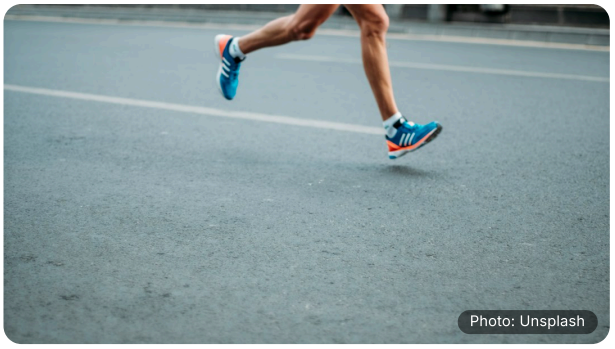
Grammar exercise: Some/any/much/many

Discussion: open-ended. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

Answer Key

TEACHERS ONLY

These answers are for teachers only. Please do not share this page with students.


Photo: Unsplash

IV. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. How long was the race that Ramabai won?
   3km.
2. Why did Ramabai enter the race?
   To buy books and study materials for her daughters.
3. How much was the prize money from the race?
   3,000 rupees.
4. What extra help did authorities order for her?
   Financial assistance of 50,000 rupees.
5. What does each of Ramabai's daughters do?
   Pooja trains for police recruitment, and Arati studies in Nanded.

V. DISCUSSION

Open answers. Accept any reasonable ideas supported by examples and reasoning.

VI. GRAMMAR FOCUS

Key point: Use some/any for amounts and many/much for countable/uncountable nouns. Use some in positive sentences, any in questions or negatives; many = countable, much = uncountable. (Examples constructed.)

"Ramabai wanted to buy **some books** *with the prize."*

"Were there **any videos** *of the run online?"*

VII. GRAMMAR EXERCISE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. She won (some / any) rupees to buy books. **some**
2. She didn't have (some / any) running shoes. **any**
3. There is not (much / many) time for recruitment training. **much**
4. Officials were told to give her (any / some) money. **some**
5. The community run had (many / much) runners in August. **many**