

What Does Scarce Mean?

People have many wants. When something is **scarce**, there is not enough of it. Let's say you want to eat two apples. If you only have one, then apples are scarce!

1. Read each story. What is scarce in each one?

| Story | What is scarce? |
|---|-------------------|
| Alex wants to buy something. But he has no money with him. | money |
| Stacy wants to eat two sandwiches. But she only has one. | sandwiches |
| Jim and Pam both want a cookie. But there is only one left. | cookies |

2. Read each story. Is something scarce? Write **yes** or **no**.

| Story | Is something scarce? |
|---|----------------------|
| Jordin wants a taco. Tacos cost \$3. Jordin has \$9. | no |
| Jack wants oranges. But the kitchen is all out of oranges. | yes |
| Brad and Sarah both want a cupcake. But there is only one left. | yes |
| Two children need books. There are 1,000 books in the library. | no |

3. What happens if an item is scarce? You have a few choices. For example, you could share the item with someone else. Or you could look for a different item. Read each story. What choice could you make for each one?

| Story | A choice you can make... |
|--|--|
| There is a line for the bathroom. | I can wait in line. |
| My brother and I want to play with the same toy. | (Answers may include either of the following): I can take turns with my brother. I can play with a different toy. |
| The library does not have my favorite book. | (Answers may include either of the following): I can find another book to read. I can go to a different library. |
| There are no brownies left at my house. | (Answers may include either of the following): I can eat something else instead. I can make some more brownies. |