English V
Determiners

MENG311 - 2021

Zachary Chui – Room A323

zchui@ipm.edu.mo

Lesson 3

What are Determiners?

- A determiner is used to modify a noun.

- It is used to reference or clarify the nouns it modifies.

- This function is performed by different word types.

- Determiners are followed by a noun.

Types of Determiners

- Quantifiers

- Articles

- Possessives

- Demonstratives

- Numbers

Quantifiers

- A quantifier indicates the *relative amount or how much of something;* modifies the noun that follows.

- Examples include: ***some, any, few, many, little***, etc.

- Quantifiers are used for *countable* and *uncountable* nouns.

Examples:
- He knows ***more*** people than his wife.
- I have ***little*** money left.

Articles

- The definite and indefinite articles are determiners. Indicates something in general, or in particular.

- Definite article - **the**

- Indefinite article – **a** or **an** (generally, **a** is used before a consonant; **an** is used before a vowel.)

Examples:
- Please close **the** door.
- I have **a** friend from Canada.

Possessives

- Possessives indicate who possesses the object.

- Possessive determiners (*my, your, his, her, its, our, their*) – modify the noun that follows it in order to show possession. They must be followed by nouns.

- Possessive pronouns (*mine, his, hers, yours, ours, theirs*) can stand alone and are not followed by nouns.

Possessives

Examples:
- This is **my** book. (possessive determiner **my**, followed by noun **book**)

- This book is **mine**. (possessive pronoun **mine**)

Demonstratives

- Describes the position of an object from the point of the speaker.

- There are four demonstrative determiners:
  this, that, these and ***those***

Demonstratives

- When used as a determiner, it is followed by the noun it modifies:

  This camera belongs to Mary.

  (Demonstrative used as a determiner to modify: **camera**)

- A demonstrative can also be used as a pronoun:

  This is Mary's camera.

  (**This** serves as a pronoun, subject of the verb **is**)

Numbers

- Numbers are *cardinal* and/or *ordinal*.

- **Cardinal**: one, two, three, etc.
  Indicates amount or quantity

- **Ordinal**: first, second, third, etc.
  Indicates order or position