


A decorative background on the left side of the slide features a pile of light-colored wooden letters and numbers scattered on a solid blue surface. The letters include 'S', 'H', 'Z', 'U', 'N', 'C', 'O', 'H', 'X', 'D', 'V', 'O', 'K', 'V', 'O', and 'O'.

Articles, Determiners and Quantifiers


Lecture One

a
ARTICLES
an ?

I have a book. I think you should read the book.



The **indefinite article** is used because this is the first time the noun has been mentioned. Because it is new information, it is not specific yet, so we use the indefinite article.

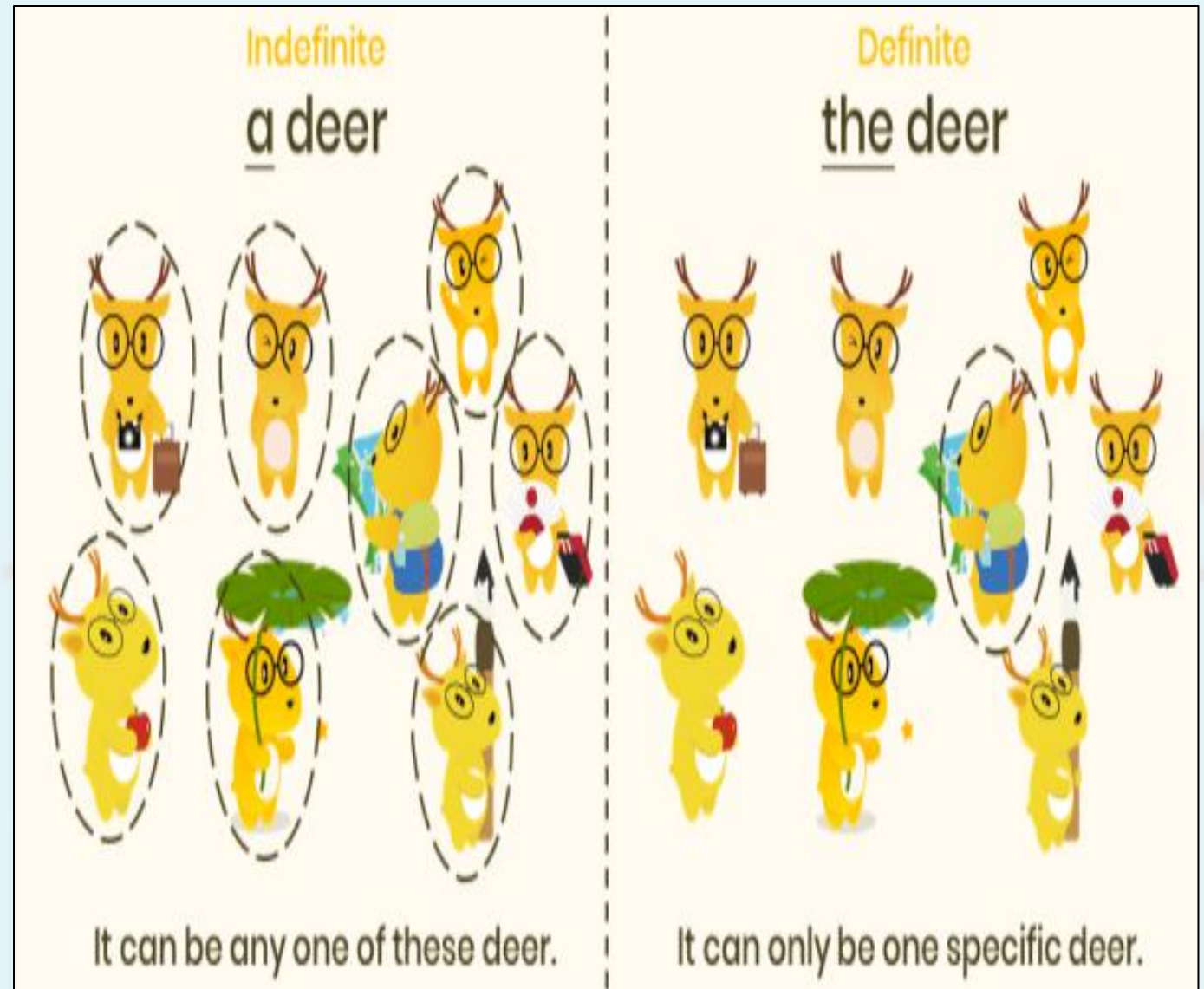


The **definite article** is used here because this is a specific book, the speaker's book. It cannot be a general book because it belongs to the speaker and the information was already introduced.

Poll Question

Is this photograph showing definite and indefinite article in correct manner?

- Yes
- No



Answer

Determiners

Yes

(The Indefinite Article): The Rules

General determiners don't refer to a specific noun.

The most frequently used general determiners are 'a' or 'an' - which are often referred to as 'the indefinite article'.

A robot is made of metal.



We use 'a' if we are talking generally about robots. If we were being specific about one particular robot then we would use the definite article 'the'.



An alien landed on our planet.



We use 'an' if the noun it precedes starts with a vowel (a, e, i, o or u) to make it easier to say.



The uses of the indefinite article are as follows:

1. Referring to a member of a group.

For example :

He is a doctor (profession)/an Indian (nationality)/a Hindu (religion).

2.To refer to an example of something.

For example :

He has a large nose/a thick beard.

3.Before singular nouns, with the words 'what' and 'such'.

For example :

What a car! Oh, that's such a shame!

Poll Question

Last summer we went on ____ cruise in the Caribbean.

- a. -*
- b. a*
- c. the*
- d. an*

Answer

Option B

The uses of the indefinite article are as follows:

4.To mean 'one' object, whether a person or thing.

For example : The thieves stole a necklace and a portrait.

5.To refer to something that is being mentioned for the first time.

For example : There was a chill in the air.

Note:

1.We usually say a hundred, a thousand, a million, etc.

2.'One' is used when emphasis is required.

For example : There is only one way out of this mess.

Poll Question

Lisa saw _____ shooting star yesterday.

- a. a*
- b. an*

Answer

Option A

(The Definite Article): The Rules

Specific determiners refer to a specific noun when the reader knows exactly which noun you are referring to.

The most frequently used specific determiner is 'the'- which is often referred to as 'the definite article'.

The Queen lives in Buckingham Palace.

We use 'the' because we are being specific about which Queen.



'The' is known as the definite article in English. Its uses are as follows:

1. When something has already been mentioned.

For example : I saw a pretty girl today. However, the pretty girl did not see me.

2. When both persons are aware of the topic of discussion.

For example : Where is the restroom?

3. To refer to unique objects.

For example: the sun, the moon, the Earth, the Taj Mahal.

4. With superlative adjectives and numbers used to rank or sequence a set of objects.

For example : Mt Everest is the tallest mountain on earth. (superlative)

Neil Armstrong was the first man on the moon. (sequence)

Poll Question

Is there any milk left in _____ fridge?

- a. a*
- b. an*
- c. the*

Answer

Option C

Determiners

'The' is known as the definite article in English. Its uses are as follows:

5. To refer to groups of people, geographical areas and oceans.

For example: the Americans, the Sahara/Pacific.

6. Countries with words like kingdom, states or republic in names :

the United Kingdom

the United States

the People's Republic of China

7. Countries which have plural nouns as their names:

the Netherlands the Philippines

'The' is known as the definite article in English. Its uses are as follows:

8. Geographical features, such as mountain ranges, groups of islands, rivers, seas, oceans and canals:

*the Himalayas
the Amazon*

*the Atlantic (Ocean)
the Panama Canal*

9. Newspapers:

The Times

The Washington Post

10. well-known organizations:

the United Nations

the Seamen's Union

Poll Question

The Amazon in Brazil is ____ longest river in ____ South America.

a. the / -

b. - / the

c. - / -

d. the / the

e. a / the

Answer

Option A

'The' is known as the definite article in English. Its uses are as follows:

11. hotels, pubs and restaurants:

the Ritz the Ritz Hotel the King's Head the Déjà Vu

*** But note that we do not use 'the' if the name of the hotel or restaurant is the name of the owner:*

Brown's Brown's Hotel Morel's Morel's Restaurant

We use "the" with:



Poll Question

*Last summer we went on a cruise in the Caribbean.
Among ____ Islands we visited were Bermuda and the
Bahamas.*

- a. the*
- b. a*
- c. an*
- d. -*

Answer

Option A

Zero Article *no article is used with :*

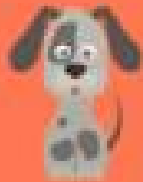
- 1. proper nouns,*
- 2. mass nouns used in general,*
- 3. plural count nouns used in general,*
- 4. when talking about means of transport (by plane),*
- 5. common expressions of time and place (at midnight, in jail).*

Examples: *no article is used before the italicized nouns.*

- My mother's name is **Rose**. I gave her a rose on **Mother's Day**.*
- Every mile is two in **winter**.*
- This plant grows in sandy soil and on the edges of **swamps**.*



TYPES OF NOUNS THAT NEED (OR DON'T NEED) AN ARTICLE



NEED A DETERMINER: COUNTABLE SINGULAR NOUNS

You can't say, "Dog sat on the sidewalk." You have to use a determiner. Example: "A dog sat on the sidewalk."



NEVER TAKE A DETERMINER: PROPER NOUNS

Proper nouns, in other words names, don't take a determiner. "John sat on the sidewalk," is fine.



DON'T NEED A DETERMINER: PLURAL NOUNS

Plural nouns don't need a determiner. "Cats sat on the windowsill," is fine. "The cats sat on the sill," is also fine.



DON'T NEED A DETERMINER: MASS NOUNS

Uncountable nouns don't need a determiner. "Fruit is on sale," is fine. "The fruit is on sale," is also fine.

Poll Question

*Are you looking forward to celebrating -----
Christmas?*

- a. The*
- b. --*
- c. a*
- d. an*

Answer

Option B

Determiners: The Rules

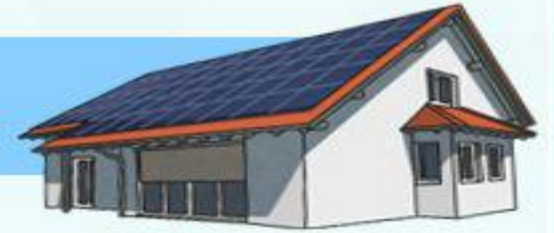
Determiners are words that come before a noun or noun phrase.

There are two types of determiners - specific and general. They introduce the noun and give the reader important information about it.



We have bought **a** new house.

My house is miles from anywhere.



WARNING!

Keep away from **the** derelict house.

Poll Question

Determiners are.....

- a. words that come before a noun or noun phrase.*
- b. words that come after a noun or noun phrase.*
- c. words that come between a noun or noun phrase.*

Answer

Option A

EXAMPLES



- ☞ I came here to submit **an** application.
- ☞ **The** book on the table is very expensive.
- ☞ He bought **some** textbooks from **the** shop.
- ☞ **Each** student got **a** chance to speak.
- ☞ **Every** customer will be honored.
- ☞ **This** is a grammar website.
- ☞ **Those** children are very interested in Mathematics.
- ☞ This is **my** lunch box.
- ☞ That is **our** new bungalow.
- ☞ This is **his** bicycle.
- ☞ **Where** is my chocolate?
- ☞ **Which** is your classroom?
- ☞ **That** is our new bungalow.
- ☞ There are **some** children in the classroom.
- ☞ She doesn't have **many** books.

Poll Question

How many types of determiners do we have in English?

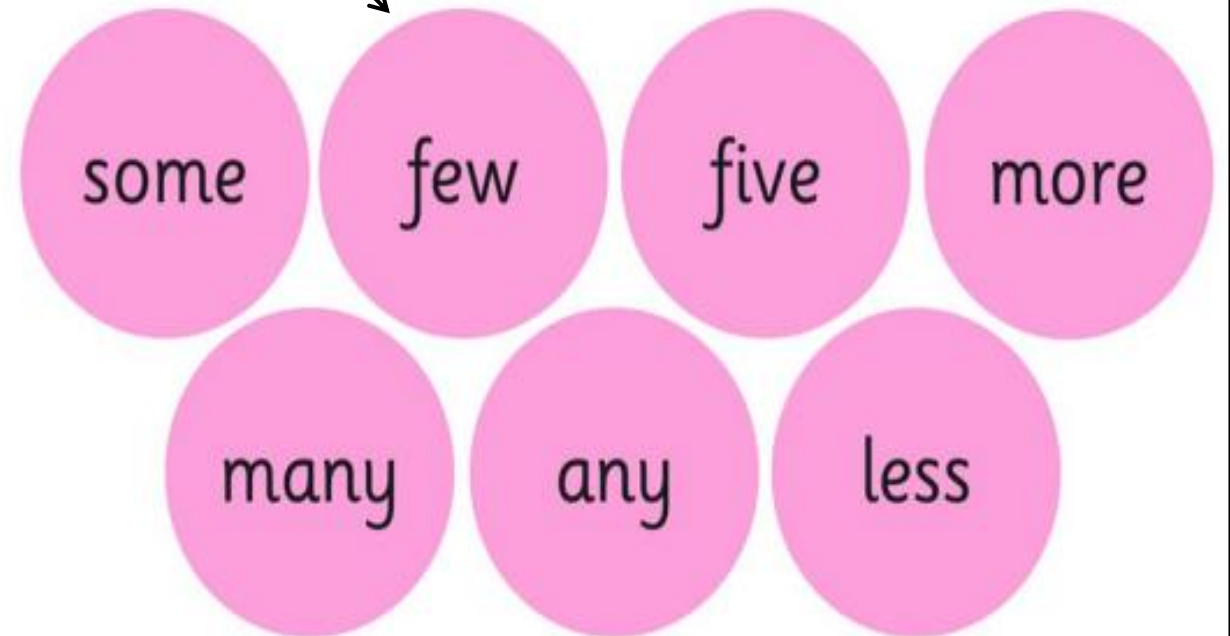
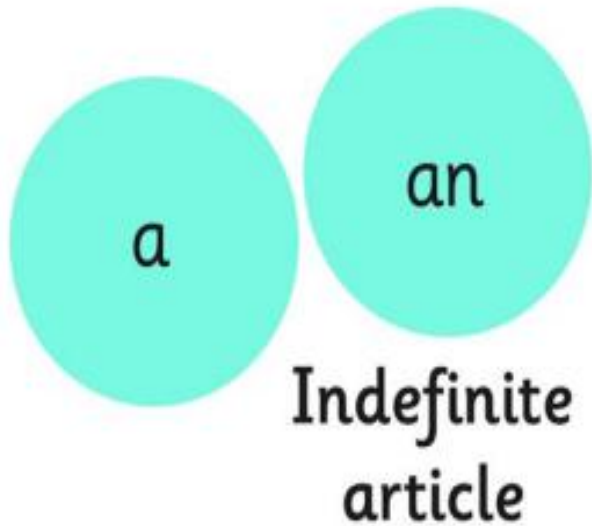
- a. 3*
- b. 4*
- c. 8*
- d. 2*

Answer

Option D

General Determiners

These refer to general nouns or nouns that the reader does not know.
General determiners can also tell the reader how many nouns you are talking about, these are called **quantifiers**.



Poll Question

*Identify general determiner in the following sentence:
'Some students are participating in the competition.'*

- a. competition*
- b. Some*
- c. participating*
- d. Students*

Answer

Option B

Understanding Determiners

Specific Determiners



These refer to a specific noun. Use specific determiners when the reader knows exactly what noun you are referring to.

The definite article

the

Demonstrative determiners

this

those

these

that

her

his

our

my

whose

their

your

Possessive determiners

which

what

Interrogative determiners

Poll Question

Identify the type of determiner in the following sentence:

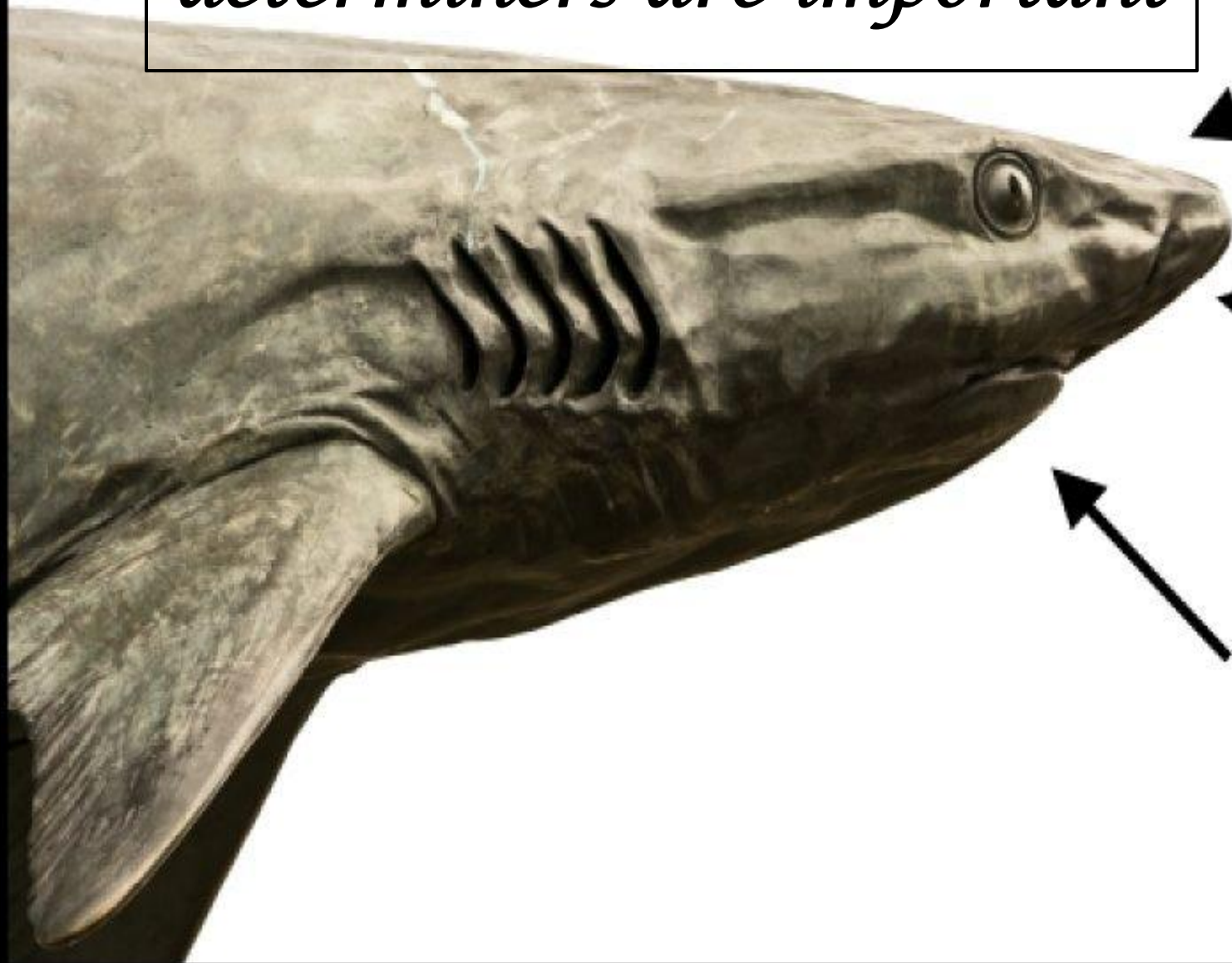
'This book belongs to her.'

- a. general*
- b. specific*

Answer

Option B

*This shows why
determiners are important*



the shark

my shark

this shark

Poll Question

Recognize general determiners:

- a. Quantifiers*
- b. Definite articles*
- c. Possessive determiners*
- d. Demonstrative determiners*