



Determiners

Determiners are words that can define nouns. So, what are the differences between determiners and adjectives?

What Are Determiners?

Determiners are a part of speech in English that are used to modify and specify a noun or noun phrase. They can indicate the number, quantity, possession, or definiteness of the noun.

Determiners: Types

There are different types of determiners in English:

1. pre-determiners
2. *central determiners*
3. post-determiners

What Are Pre-determiners?

Pre-determiners appear before other determiners in a noun phrase to provide additional information about the noun. They modify the meaning of other determiners. **Pre-determiners** in English include:

- multipliers
- fractions
- intensifiers
- distributives (both, all)

Multipliers

A number that is used to increase the amount, number, or quantity of something is called a **multiplier**. Check out the examples:

She eats **twice** the normal amount.

Fraction

Fractions are used to show a *smaller* part of a whole. Here are some examples.

I will give you **half** my salad.

Three-forth the cup has to be filled with oil.

Intensifiers

Intensifiers are adverbs or adverbial phrases that are used to *amplify or emphasize* the degree or extent of a noun or an adjective. Take a look at these examples.

The first day of school was **such** terrible day that I rather not go there again.

What a mess you are!

Distributives

'Distributive determiners' refer to *specific individuals* within a group rather than the group as a whole. They can refer to each individual separately. However, only a few distributives can be used as pre-determiners. Here are distributive pre-determiners:

1. both
2. all

Take a look at some examples:

Both my friends are in love with Hanna.

I gave **all** his money back.

Central Determiners

Central determiners are used in the middle position to modify the head noun. They can be used in combination with a pre-determiner before or a post-determiner after them to further modify the noun. Here are the central determiners of English:

- articles
- possessive determiners
- demonstrative determiners
- interrogative determiners

Articles

Articles are used to specify a noun as either definite or indefinite. Definite articles refer to a specific noun, while indefinite articles refer to a general noun that is not specific. Using a definite article before a noun helps to identify which noun is being referred to, while using an

indefinite article indicates a more general reference. English articles are as follows:

1. **A** (indefinite article)
2. **An** (indefinite article used with nouns that start with a vowel)
3. **The** (definite article)

Take a look at some examples:

I heard **a** noise.

He is **an** actor

The teacher started to walk in the class.

Demonstrative Determiners

'Demonstrative determiners' are used to indicate or point to *specific things or objects*. They are only used before **nouns** to modify or specify it. Here are the demonstrative determiners of English:

1. This
2. That
3. These
4. Those

Take a look at some examples:

Those butterflies are flying around the flowers.

That girl standing over there, is the one who won the prize.

Possessive Determiners



Those butterflies are flying around
the flowers.

using determiners in a sentence

'Possessive determiners' indicate the possession of objects. In other words, they are used to say to whom something belongs. As their name requires possessive determiners show who possesses something. Here are the possessive determiners:

1. My
2. Your
3. His
4. Her
5. Its
6. Our
7. Their

Take a look at some examples:

Those are **my** pants honey, put them on the bed, please.

The cooks set **their** tables for the match on their own.

Interrogative Determiners

'Interrogative Determiners' are used to ask a question. These are Interrogative determiners of the English language:

1. whose
2. what
3. which

Take a look at some examples:

Whose car is this?

What color is your car?

Warning

Interrogative determiners are used alone with no **post-determiners** following them or any **pre-determiners** preceding them.

Post-determiners

Post-determiners are placed after *central determiners*. Here are the post-determiners on the list.

- [numerals](#)
- [quantifiers](#)
- [distributives](#)

Numerals

Numerals can be *ordinal*, or *cardinal numbers*. **Sequencers** are kinds of numbers as well. They are all used as numerals.

1. [ordinal numbers](#)
2. [cardinal numbers](#)
3. sequencers

Take a look at some examples:

I need to buy **six** oranges for the recipe.

* A cardinal number

The **first** time I saw him I knew he would be the one.

* An ordinal number

The **next** time you are here, make sure you tell the truth.

* A sequencer

Quantifiers

Quantifiers are used before head nouns to define an **indefinite** amount or number. They are used as **post-determiners**. Here are the most important quantifiers.

- [some](#)
- [any](#)
- [plenty](#)
- [few](#)
- [little](#)
- [many](#)

Take a look at some examples:

Many people voted for him.

A few glasses are still filled with red wine.

Distributive Determiners

'**Distributive determiners**' refer to *specific individuals* within a group, and can either point to them as a single whole or to each individual separately. Here are some *distributive determiners*.

1. [Either](#)
2. [Neither](#)
3. [Each](#)
4. [Every](#)

Take a look at some examples:

Each one of us is trying to get the prize.

I spent **every** minute of my life with my mother.

Tip!

Pre-determiners, **post-determiners**, and **central determiners** can be used *alone* as the only determiner of the head noun. Here are a few examples.

Both parents came to the meeting. → pre-determiners

My sister is an accountant.

Neither book was interesting for me.

Adjectives vs. Determiners

Determiners and 'adjectives' are two distinct parts of speech in English grammar. While **determiners** are used only once before a particular noun, there is no limit to the number of **adjectives** that can be used before a noun. Additionally, determiners cannot be used after a verb, whereas predictive adjectives are commonly used after verbs to describe the subject or object of the sentence.

determiner + determiner	✗	adjective + adjective	✓
determiner + adjective	✓	adjective + determiner	✗
determiner + noun	✓	adjective + noun	✓
noun + determiner	✗	noun + adjective	✗
verb + determiner	✗	verb + adjective	✓
can omit determiner	✗	can omit adjective	✓

Determiners are not always used before *plural nouns* and can sometimes be omitted, but they are typically necessary before *singular nouns*. **Adjectives**, on the other hand, can often be *omitted* before nouns without affecting the sentence's overall meaning. Check out the table for more detailed information.

Review

Determiners come before nouns to modify them. Here are different types of determiners.

- articles
- demonstratives
- possessive
- quantifiers
- distributives

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Recommend :**Pre-determiners**

Pre-determiners are used to modify a noun. They are placed before the central determiners. Follow the article to learn about them.

