

## Determiners

A determiner is a word that introduces a noun. It always comes before a noun, not after, and it also comes before any other adjectives used to describe the noun.

### TYPES OF DETERMINERS

#### Articles

a  
an  
the



#### Possessives

my, your,  
his, her, its,  
our, their,  
whose



#### Demonstratives

this  
that  
these  
those



#### Numerals

one  
two  
three  
four



#### Ordinals

first  
second  
third  
fourth



#### Quantifiers

a few, another,  
several, much,  
many, a lot of, any,  
some, very





Types of Determiners		Examples	Phrases
Pre-Determiner	Multiplier	Once, twice, three times	Twice the money
	Fraction	Half, one fourth	Half the orange
	Intensifier	What, such, rather, quite	What a mess!
	Quantifier	Both all, each, any, every, some, many	Both my ears
Central Determiner	Article	A, an, the	All the factories
	Demonstrative Adjective	This, that, these, those	Half this page
	Possessive Adjective	My, our, her, his, its, their	Both her parents
Post-Determiner	Cardinal Number	One, two, three	The three zebras
	Ordinal Number	First, Second, third	The first room
	General Number	Last, next, previous	The next generation
	Quantifier	A few, another, enough, more, several	The several sweaters

## Definite Determiners

Which imply that the referent of the resulting noun phrase is defined specifically:

1. The definite article the.

Example: *The girl, all the factories, the red wine*

2. The demonstrative adjectives

Examples: *this, that, these, those*

3. Possessive adjectives

Examples: *my, your, his, her, its, our, their, whose, one's, everybody's, Cindy's, Linda's, a boy's, the man we saw yesterday's.*

4. Interrogatives

Examples: *which, what (these can be followed by -ever for emphasis).*

5. Relative determiners: which, whichever and whatever...

Example: *Whichever way you look at it, things are pretty bad.*



## Indefinite Determiners

### 1. The indefinite article

Example: *a or an*

### 2. The word *some*

Used as an equivalent of the indefinite article with plural and non-count nouns

### 3. The strong form of *some*

Example: *Some people pretend to despise the things they cannot have*

### 4 The word *any*

Often used in negative and interrogative contexts in place of the article equivalent *some* (and sometimes also with singular count nouns) It can also be used to express alternative.

## Quantifiers

### 1. Words indicating a large or small quantity and their comparative and superlative forms

Examples: *much/many, little/few, more, most, less/fewer, least/fewest.*

### 2. Phrases expressing similar meanings to the above

Examples: *a lot of, lots of, plenty of, a great deal of, tons of etc.*

### 3. Words and phrases expressing some unspecified or probably quite small amount

Examples: *a few/a little, (learners often confuse these with few/little), several, a couple of, a bit of, a number of, etc.*

### 4 Cardinal numbers

Examples: *zero (quite rare as determiner), one, two, etc.*

### 5. Other phrases expressing precise quantity

Examples: *a pair of, five litres of etc.*

### 6. Words and phrases expressing multiples or fractions

Examples: *half, half of, double, twice, three times, twice as much etc.*

### 7. Words expressing maximum, sufficient or zero quantity

Examples: *all, both, enough, sufficient, no.*

Note that many of these quantifiers can be modified by adverbs and adverbial phrases such as *almost over more than, less than* when the meaning is appropriate.



## Personal Determiners

The words you and retain phrases like we teachers, you can be analysed as determiners

Examples: *I thought you guys all wore those penguin coats.*

*Us girls wear woollen socks in water,*

These examples can be contrasted with a similar but different use of pronouns in an appositional construction where the use of other pronouns is also permitted but the pronouns cannot be preceded by the (pre-) determiner "all".

Examples: *I/we, the undersigned....*

*We, the undersigned.... (but not All we, the undersigned)*

## Other Cases

The word me and explanative what These are followed by an indefinite article when used with a singular noun

Examples: *Such a long way.*

*What a disaster!*

2 Noun phrases used as determiners

Example: *This colour and what size(as in I don't like the colour furniture; What size shirt does he wear?)*

## Zero Determiners

In some contexts a complete noun phrase can exist without any determiner (or with "zero determiner") The main types of such cases are:

1. With plural or uncountable nouns used to refer to a concept or members of a class generally

Examples: *Cars are useful. (but the cars when specific cars are being referred to)*

*Happiness is contagious. (but the happiness when specific happiness is referred to, as in the happiness that laughter engenders)*

2. With plural or uncountable nouns used to refer to some unspecified amount of something

Examples: *There a dog under the table.*

*Do you take milk in your tea?*