

Chapter-20

Determiner

A determiner is a word that accompanies a noun and determines whether it is general or specific, its quantity, who it belongs to, and more. Determiners are either **specific** or **general**.

The specific determiners are:

the definite article	<i>the</i>
possessives	<i>my, your, his, her, its, our, their, whose</i>
demonstratives	<i>this, that, these, those</i>
interrogatives	<i>which</i>

We use a specific determiner when we believe the **listener/reader** knows **exactly what we are referring to** :

- Can you pass me **the** salt please? / Look at **those** lovely flowers.
- Thank you very much for **your** letter./ **Whose** coat is this?

General determiners :

The general determiners are : *a; an; any; another; other; what*

When we are talking about things in general and the listener/reader does **not** know exactly what we are referring to, we can use an **uncount noun** or a **plural noun with no determiner** :

- **Milk** is very good for you. (= uncountable noun)
- **Girls** normally do better in school than **boys**.
(= plural nouns with no determiner)

... or you can use a singular noun with the indefinite article a or an :

- **A woman** was lifted to safety by **a helicopter**.
- **A man** climbing nearby saw the accident.

We use general determiner **any** with a singular noun or an uncountable noun when we are talking about **all** of those people or things:

- It's very easy. **Any** child can do it. (= All children can do it)
- With a full licence you are allowed to drive **any** car.
- I like beef, lamb, pork - **any** meat.