

LECTURE 3

ARTICLES & DETERMINERS



Determiners

Definition

a word placed before a noun to provide information such as quantity, ownership, and specificity

Examples

Articles

a an the

A dog owns nothing, yet is seldom dissatisfied.

Demonstratives

this that these those

You can't control this dog.

Possessives

my your his their

Host your guest and also his dog.

Quantifiers

few some six no

When two dogs fight over a bone, the third carries it away.

Determiners

Pronominal

Intensifiers

Quantifiers

Numerals

Article

Demonstrative

Distributive

Possessive

Interrogative

Cardinal

Ordinal

Multiplicative

Fraction

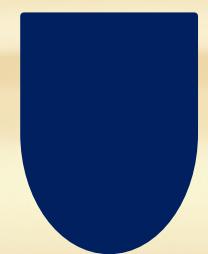
ARTICLES VS. DETERMINERS

Determiners are a group of words that we use to describe nouns

There are four main types of determiners in the English language: demonstratives, articles, quantifiers, and possessives

Articles are one subcategory that falls under the larger group, determiners

There are two types of articles: definite articles and indefinite articles



TYPES OF ARTICLES

ARTICLE DEFINITION

An **article** is a word that modifies or describes the Noun. It is used before the noun to show whether it refers to something specific or not.



TYPES OF ARTICLE

Definite Article

Indefinite Article

DEFINITE ARTICLE

- Definite: To be clear, exact or obvious about something.

INDEFINITE ARTICLE

- Indefinite: Something which is not clear, obvious or exact.

Rules to use "A, An or The"

- ▶ A = indefinite article (not a specific object, one of a number of the same objects) with consonants

Examples :

She has a dog.

I work in a factory.

- ▶ An = indefinite article (not a specific object, one of a number of the same objects) with vowels (a,e,i,o,u)

Examples :

She is an English teacher.

Can I have an apple?



The first time you speak of something use "a or an", the next time you repeat that object use "the".

Examples :

- ▶ I live in a house. The house is quite old and has four bedrooms.
- ▶ I eat in a Chinese restaurant. The restaurant is very good.

PRACTICE MAKES IT PERFECT!

What can you see?





The definite article THE .

- The definite article the is the most frequent word in English.
- We use the definite article in front of a noun when we believe the hearer/reader knows exactly what we are referring to, because there is only one.

Examples

The Pope is visiting Russia.

The moon is very bright tonight.



The definite article is used with a superlative adjective:

Examples

He is the tallest boy in the class.

It is the oldest building in the town.

► It is also used where there is only one in that place or in those surroundings:

Examples

We live in a small village next to the church (the church in our village)

Dad, can I borrow the car? (the car that belongs to our family)



To say something about all the things referred to by a noun:

The wolf is not really a dangerous animal (= Wolves are not really dangerous animals)

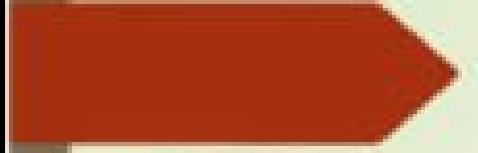
The kangaroo is found only in Australia (= Kangaroos are found only in Australia)



We use the definite article in this way to talk about musical instruments:

Joe plays the piano really well. (= George can play any piano)

She is learning the guitar. (= She is learning to play any guitar)



we do also use the definite article with:

- Countries whose names include words like kingdom, states or republic:

the United Kingdom

the kingdom of Nepal

the United States

the People's Republic of China.

- Countries which have plural nouns as their names:

the Netherlands

the Philippines

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

the Himalayas

the Canaries

Other Uses of The

- ▶ Newspapers:

- The Times

- The Washington Post

- ▶ Well known buildings or works of art:

- the Empire State Building;

- the Taj Mahal;

- ▶ Organisations:

- the United Nations

- the Seamen's Union

- ▶ hotels, pubs and restaurants

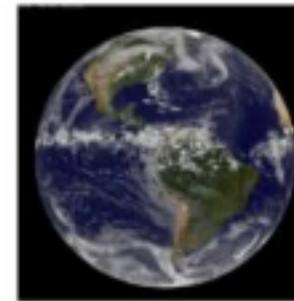
- the Ritz; the Ritz Hotel

- ▶ families:

- the Obamas; the Jacksons

The Unique things, objects and people

- The Sun
- The Moon
- The Earth
- The Equator
- The North Pole
- The President of Russia
- The Queen of England



The Water: Rivers, oceans and seas

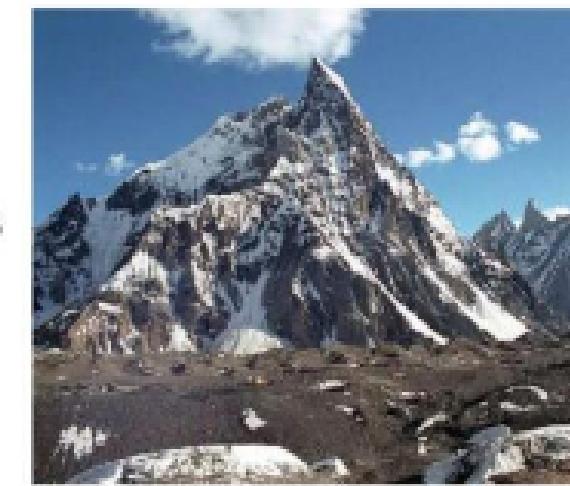
- The Pacific Ocean
- The Black Sea
- The Volga
- The Atlantic Ocean



The

Mountain ranges

- The Andes
- The Urals
- The Alps
- The Himalayas





WHAT ARE THESE?



These are cats

We use zero article when the noun is plural.

e.g.:

oranges
dogs

people
mice

Zero Article

Names of Continents

- Africa
- South America
- Europe
- Asia



Zero Article

Names of cities

- Moscow
- London
- Washington DC
- Tokyo
- Beijing



Zero Article

Names of Countries

- Russia
- Great Britain
- Germany
- China



**BUT: the UK, The USA,
The Russian Federation,
the Czech Republic**



WHAT IS THIS?



This is water

We use zero article with
uncountable nouns

e.g.:

sugar

coffee

tea

love

Possessive Determiners

- Are used like adjective before a noun
- They tell you who possesses or owns something

Examples of possessive determines:

- Jack is in his bedroom
- ◆ I have lost my favourite book
- The dog carried its young puppies into the kennel.
- ◆ They took off their dirty shoes before entering the house.

Possessive Determiners

person	possessive determiner	person	possessive determiner
1st singular	my	3rd object	its
2nd singular	your	1st plural	our
3rd singular	his	2nd plural	your
3rd singular	her	3rd plural	their

Most common mistakes

We never employ an apostrophe 's after the possessive pronouns

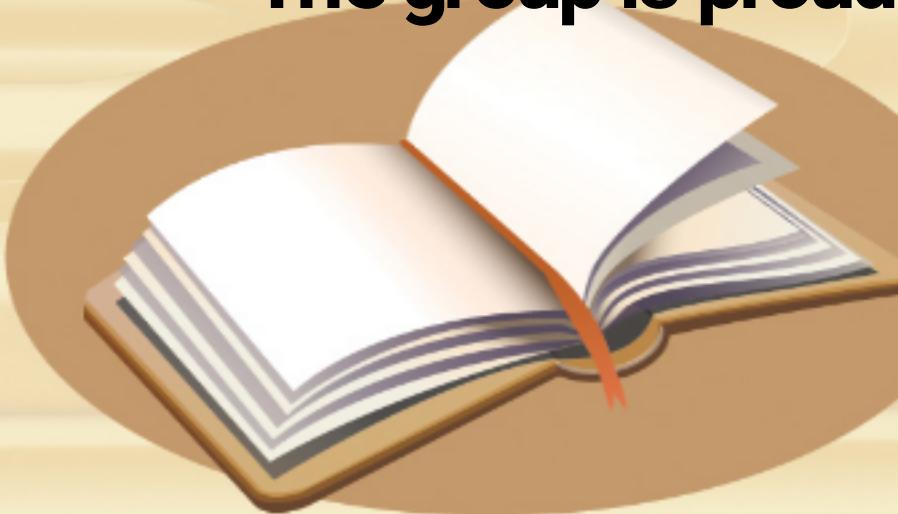
Are these keys hers ?

Are those keys her's? - Incorrect

's is not employed with the possessive pronoun its. It's means it is.

The group is proud of its capability to excel continuously.

The group is proud of it's capability to excel continuously.- Incorrect



We never utilize another determiner with the possessive determiner.

She is going to cut my hair this Sunday.

She is going to cut the my hair this Sunday.- Incorrect

We never employ a possessive determiner on its own. They are mostly found at the start of the noun phrase but not before the noun.

That's not my phone. It's yours(or it is your phone)

That's not my phone. It's your. - Incorrect

Lots of our colleagues were at the event.

Lots of ours colleagues were at the event(Incorrect)



Demonstrative Determiners: The Rules

Demonstrative determiners are also specific.

They relate to the location of the noun that you are describing

That

I love that shirt

those



'that' indicates that the shirt is nearby

this

Those children are often mean to me.



these

'Those' is used to be specific about which children

Interrogative Determiners: The Rules

Interrogative determiners are used before a noun or noun phrase to ask questions. We use ‘which’ or ‘what’ as determiners to ask a question about a specific group of people or things.

what

What books do you like to read?



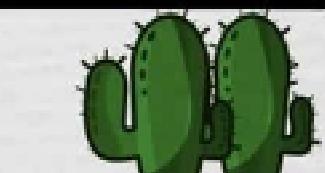
which



Which restaurant did you go to?

Types of Determiners		Examples	Phrases
Pre-Determiner	Multiplier	Once, twice, three times...	Twice the money 
	Fraction	Half, one fourth...	Half an 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, our.	Both her parents 
Post-Determiner	Cardinal number	One, two, three...	The three zebras 
	Ordinal number	First, second, third...	The first room 
	General ordinal	Last, next, previous...	The next generation 
	Quantifier	A few, another, enough, more, several...	His several sweaters 

Order of Determiners in Noun phrase

Pre-determiner	Central Determiner	Post-determiner	Noun	Noun Phrase
All	the	many	roads	All the many roads 
Some (of)	our		neighbours	Some of our neighbours 
None (of)	these		packages	None of these packages 
Half	an		hour	Half an hour 
Both	the	other	cactuses	Both the other cactuses 
	My	three	colleagues	My three colleagues 
Three times	his		salary	Three times his salary 

When Not to use an Article We do not use any article at all for some cases. The article ' a' and ' the' are not used for the following cases:

1. When Plural Noun is talked about: Correct - Girls like pink (the sentence is talking about girls in general) Correct - The girls in my hostel like to play kabaddi. (the sentence is talking about girls specifically of the hostel)
2. When Uncountable nouns are talked about Correct - Water Scarcity is a problem. (it is uncountable) Correct - The Water scarcity in my locality is a problem. (talking about specific locality) Incorrect - There is a water scarcity in my locality. (here again scarcity is uncountable)
3. When Real Nouns are talked about i.e. names of people or places Incorrect - I want to visit the Australia. Incorrect - She talks to the Sam for articles.

