



Determiners

Determiners are words that introduce nouns. These are the different types:

- **Articles:** a, an, the
- **Demonstratives:** this, that, these, those
- **Possessive Adjectives:** my, your, her, his, our, its, their
- **Quantifiers:** a little, a few, many, much, a lot of, most, any, some, enough
- **Numbers:** one, five, forty
- **Distributives:** both, all, half, neither, either, every, each
- **Interrogatives:** what, which, whose

The grammar rules for determiners are that they:

- Always come before a noun
- Come before any modifiers (e.g. adjectives) used before the noun
- Are required before a singular noun
- Are optional before plural nouns

Here are some examples of determiners used with the noun 'house':

Type of Determiner	Example Determiner	Noun
Articles	The	house
Demonstratives	These	houses
Possessive Adjectives	Our	house
Quantifiers	A lot of	houses
Numbers	Twenty	houses
Distributives	Both	houses
Interrogatives	Which	house?

Determiners are commonly used as part of noun phrases, which will also include a modifier (an adjective, another noun, a possessive form, or an adverb-adjective combination).

Here are some examples of **noun phrases** that consist of:

- **determiner + modifier + noun**

Type of Determiner	Example Determiner	Modifier	Noun
Articles	The	old	house
Demonstratives	These	rich	people
Possessive Adjectives	Our	uncle's	car
Quantifiers	A lot of	excited	children
Numbers	Twenty	brick	buildings
Distributives	Both	black	kettles
Interrogative	Which	new	restaurant?

Examples of Determiners

Here are some more examples of determiners with nouns in sentences. The determiner is in red and the noun is in bold. Note the modifiers separating them in certain cases:

Articles

Articles can be definite articles (*the*) or indefinite (*a* or *an*). *The* is used when the speaker thinks that the listener already knows what is being referred to. Otherwise *a* (before consonants) or *an* (before vowels) is used.

There are many rules though around articles which need to be studied carefully.

- She took a significant **amount of time** to learn English
- I bought a nice **present** for my uncle
- There's an **otter** over there
- The **beaches** in Goa are beautiful
- I'll give you an **example** of the **essay question**

Demonstratives

Demonstrative determiners are used to identify or point to a particular person, event, or object. *This* and *that* are singular. *These* and *those* are plural.

- I like this kind of **biscuit**
- Why don't you buy that **book** instead of this **one**?
- Those **children** outside are being too noisy for this **time** of night
- I'll take these **pills** for my back ache later

Possessive Adjectives

Possessive adjective determiners function as adjectives rather than pronouns. As they are adjectives, they appear before the noun that they are modifying.

- Do you like my new **dress**?
- I prefer my **uniform** to yours (i.e. your **uniform**)
- Take your **phone** out of your **pocket**
- I really respect her controversial **views** on abortion
- His old **motorbike** is a classic
- Let's let them use our **house** for their **wedding reception**
- The dog has eaten its **food**

Quantifiers

Quantifiers provide approximate or specific answers to the questions "How many?" and "How much?"

- I only take a little bit of **milk** with my tea
- Quite a few **people** should be coming to the party
- I didn't take many **holidays** last year
- I haven't brought much **money** with me
- Do you think a lot of **people** believe what he says?
- Most **students** work hard to pass their exams
- Have you got any **proof** that he committed the crime?
- It takes some **effort** for me to do exercise
- Do we have enough **rice** to last the week?

Numbers

Numbers are either cardinal (one, two, three, etc.), which are adjectives referring to quantity, or ordinal (first, second, third, etc.) referring to distribution.

- Two **cars** are enough for most families
- There are about twenty-five **people** in my office
- It's my fortieth **birthday** next week
- That is the second **time** you've done that!

Distributives

Distributive determiners are used to refer to a group or individual members of the group. They reveal more about how people or things are distributed, shared, or divided.

- Both **countries** need to discuss the issues and find a solution
- All pet **dogs** need plenty of attention
- Half the **people** decided not to vote
- Neither **house** is suitable for our needs
- We can eat at either **7pm** or **8pm**

Interrogatives

Interrogatives are used to ask questions. *Which* as a determiner is used to ask about a specific group of people or things.

What as a determiner is used when we are asking a general question. *Whose* is used to ask a question about possession.

- Which **restaurant** did you like best?
- What **time** will you come?
- Whose **pencil** is this?

Fill each blank with the proper article. If no article is required, put a cross in the blank space:

(Assam was __ (1) __ active boy. one day he didn't find milk in __ (2) __ refrigerator. Assam decided to go to __ (3) __ supermarket to buy some milk. It took him __ (4) __ long time to go there because there was __ (5) __ lot of traffic on __ (6) __ way. As he go to __ (7) __ supermarket, he realized that he had left his wallet at __ (8) __ home. So, he goes back in __ (9) __ car and drove home. Once he goes home, he decided that he was too tired to go out again. "I don't feel like driving all __ (10) __ way to the supermarket", he thought. "Too bad there isn't __ (11) __ convenience store around there".

(Answer key: an, 2. the, 3. the, 4. A, 5. a, 6. the, 7. the, 8. X, 9. the, 10. The, 11. A)

- For each blank space, choose the proper article (a, an, the or no article):
 1. They usually spend their holidays in _____ Mountains.
 2. Los angles has _____ ideal climate.
 3. This is _____ best Mexican restaurant in the country.
 4. I can't live on _____ 500 dollars a month.
 5. Someone called _____ policeman!
 6. She gave _____ interesting answer.
 7. He is _____ real American hero.
 8. I don't like _____ dogs, but I like my brother's dog.
 9. I haven't seen him _____ five year.
 10. Kobe Bryant is _____ basketball player.

(Answer key: 1. the, 2. an, 3. The 4. No article, 5. A, 6. An, 7. An, 8. No article, 9. No article, 10. A)

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Fill in the blanks using suitable determiners.

(a) (a/an/the) man went for (b)
(a/an/the) holiday to (c) (a/an/the) place near (d)
..... (a/an/the) sea., (e) (every/all/some)
morning he went for a swim in the sea. On (f) (all/most/every) days
the sea was rough, but on (g) (every/most/some) days it was calm.

Answer:

- (a) a
- (b) a
- (c) a
- (d) the
- (e) every
- (f) most
- (g) some

Fill in the blanks using suitable determiners from those given in the brackets.

- (a) Ann has candies, (any/some)
- (b) Bill doesn't have money, (any/many)
- (c) Sue will give us information, (some/several)
- (d) There is milk in the fridge, (a lot of/few)
- (e) I saw people at the railway station, (many/one)
- (f) of the cars parked here belong to this company, { none! Every)

Answer:

- (a) some
- (b) any
- (c) some
- (d) a lot of
- (e) many
- (f) None

Fill in the blanks with suitable determiners:

- 1) _____ house is not mine.
- 2) I have _____ more files to complete.
- 3) She doesn't like him _____.
- 4) Nidhi answered _____ the questions wrong.
- 5) _____ the girls had to carry their own luggage.
- 6) I shall not buy _____ oranges. These are rotten.
- 7) I have bought _____ cycle.
- 8) I drive 10 Kms _____ day to reach my school.
- 9) We are expecting _____ guests tonight.
- 10) _____ of my answers were correct. So I passed.
- 11) Hello! _____ is Nipun. Can I speak to Aman?
- 12) He spends _____ time on video games.
- 13) What is your sister doing _____ days?
- 14) I can speak _____ Hindi.
- 15) He had built _____ unique house.

Answers:

- 1) *That*
- 2) *Some*
- 3) *Much*
- 4) *All*
- 5) *All*
- 6) *These*
- 7) *A*
- 8) *Every*
- 9) *Several*
- 10) *Most*
- 11) *This*
- 12) *More*
- 13) *These*
- 14) *Little*
- 15) *A*