

DETERMINERS (9)

The Most Common Determiners (01)

In context

2 min

What is a determiner?



a lock



your binoculars



This key

The Main Determiners

8 min

A determiner is a word used before a noun to give more information about the noun. There are different types of determiners. The main ones are:

Main Determiners	Example Words	Example Phrases
articles	a, an, the	<i>the</i> book
demonstrative adjectives	this, that, these, those	<i>that</i> book
possessive adjectives	my, your, his, her, its, our, their	<i>my</i> book
interrogative adjectives	which, what, whose	<i>what</i> book
quantifiers	few, little, several, many, much, each...	<i>many</i> books
cardinal numbers	one, two, three...	<i>two</i> books
the possessive apostrophe	's	Jessica <i>'s</i> book

Writing Exercise

5 min

Match the determiner on the left to its name on the right.

1. these	a. cardinal number
2. fifty-six	b. article
3. our	c. quantifier
4. 's	d. interrogative adjective
5. few	e. demonstrative
6. an	f. possessive apostrophe
7. which	g. possessive adjective

Writing Exercise

5 min

Give examples of each category of determiners:

1. articles: _____
2. demonstrative adjectives: _____
3. possessive adjectives: _____
4. interrogative adjectives: _____
5. quantifiers: _____
6. cardinal numbers: _____

Writing Exercise

5 min

Complete the text with the determiners from this list:

much, many, two, 's, her, a, an, the, several, what, that, those

Lisa has _____ sisters. When one of them found out Lisa was pregnant, she asked: _____ name did you choose for your baby? Lisa said she did not know yet, she had so _____ things to do and not _____ time before the baby would be there. Lisa _____ othersister had _____ idea. She remembered _____ days when she was pregnant. _____ friends had organized _____ great baby shower. So she planned the nicest baby shower, with _____ help of _____ friends. Lisa was very surprised and shed tears _____ day.

Writing Exercise with the Teacher

5 min

Write sentences using the determiners indicated.

1. which / two:

2. a / 's / their:

3. few / an / that:

4. these / those / the:

Reading Exercise with the Teacher

5 min

Read these sentences to your teacher. Then, say which words are determiners.

1. Most women like flowers.
2. He has many friends but little money.
3. I would like a hamburger and two cookies please.
4. This pen is very expensive, I prefer the other pen.
5. Michelle's husband works with his brother in Boston.

Speaking Exercise with the Teacher

Listen to your teacher's questions. Then, answer.

1. What kind of determiner would you use to show something?
Give an example using the determiner you choose.
2. What kind of determiner would you use to ask a question?
Give an example using the determiner you choose.
3. What kinds of determiners can you use to say who an object belongs to?

Give an example using the determiner you choose.

4. What is the most common kind of determiners?

Give an example using the determiner you choose.

5. What kinds of determiners can you use to express a quantity?

Give an example using the determiner you choose.

Watch the Video!

5 min

With this video lesson, you will review many different determiners.

Watch the video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Nxh0lqLOKs&feature=related

Watch it again and choose the correct answers.

1. What is the function of determiners?

- a. to accompany a verb
- b. to help define nouns, in terms of specificity (definite or indefinite), number, ownership, etc.
- c. to replace the noun, the verb, or the adverb

2. Which of the following are non-specific determiners?

- a. all, both, any
- b. this, that, these, those
- c. my, our

3. What is "the beautiful birds"?

- a. an adverbial clause without any determiner
- b. a sentence containing the determiner 'the'
- c. a noun phrase containing the determiner 'the'

Quiz

10 min

True or False?

1. A determiner is a word used before a noun to give more information about the noun.

true false

2. Adverbs are a kind of determiners.

true false

3. Possessive adjectives are a kind of determiners.

true false

4. Possessive pronouns are a kind of determiners.

true false

Complete the lists of determiners:

1. a, _____, the

2. this, that, _____, those

3. _____, your, his, her, _____, our, their

4. few/little, many/_____

Choose the correct determiner:

1. We visited _____ university in Arizona. (a / an)

2. Can you see _____ peacocks over there? (these / those)

3. You earned _____ points. (few / little)

4. The cat is looking for _____ ball. (his / its)

5. It is _____ honor to meet you. (a / an)

6. I will not share _____ information. (this / an)

7. They do not have _____ time. (much / many)

8. I have been there _____ times. (much / many)

9. Yesterday was Joe _____ birthday. ('s / the)

10. Between these two, _____ book would you buy? (which / whose)