

DETERMINERS (9)

Word Order: Using Pre-determiners / Central Determiners / Post-determiners (02)

In context

5 min

What is a determiner?

Determiner	Noun
the	road

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

What are pre-determiners, central determiners, and post-determiners?

Pre-determiner	Central Determiner	Post-determiner	Noun
all	the	many	roads

Depending on its position before the noun, a determiner can be: a central determiner, a predeterminer or a postdeterminer.

A phrase like this example is rare. We usually only use one or two determiners.

Pre-determiners / Central Determiners / Post-determiners

10 min

There are different types of central determiners. The main ones are:

Main Central Determiners	Example Words	Example Phrases
articles	a, an, the	all <i>the</i> time
demonstrative adjectives	this, that, these, those	half <i>this</i> page
possessive adjectives	my, your, his, her, its, our, their	both <i>my</i> parents

Pre-determiners include:

Main Pre-determiners	Example Words	Example Phrases
multipliers	twice, three times...	<i>twice</i> the money
fractions	half, one fourth...	<i>half</i> an hour
intensifiers	what, such, rather, quite	<i>What</i> a mess!
other words	both, all	<i>both</i> my legs

Post-determiners include:

Main Post-determiners	Example Words	Example Phrases
cardinal numbers	one, two, eighty...	the <i>three</i> eagles
ordinal numbers	first, second, twenty-third...	the <i>first</i> time
general ordinals	last, next, previous...	our <i>next</i> meeting
quantifiers	few, several, many...	his <i>several</i> successes

Language Tips about Determiners

5 min

Some words can be determiners or post-determiners, depending on the number of determiners in a sentence and their place.

Examples:

'two' is a determiner in: I need *two* rackets.

'two' is a post-determiner in: I need the *two* rackets in the garage. ('two' is placed

after the central determiner 'the')

'many' is a determiner in: We know *many* uses for these products.

'many' is a post-determiner in: We know their *many* uses. ('many' is placed after the central determiner 'their')

Usually, we only use one pre-determiner. However, it is possible to use two post-determiners, as shown in the 2 examples below.

Examples:

his *next two* projects

the *first three* days

Writing Exercise

5 min

Place the following words in the table below, in alphabetical order:

all, this, second, such, both, five, her, the, previous

Central Determiners	Pre-determiners	Post-determiners

Writing Exercise

5 min

Complete with the correct determiner.

1. I make _____ his salary! (half/all)
2. We brush our teeth _____ a day. (two/twice)
3. _____ the customers were satisfied. (all/both)
4. Are you available for the _____ meeting? (last/next)
5. _____ my uncles live in Switzerland. (both/twice)
6. _____ this amount is enough. (all / one third of)
7. _____ a great invention! (What/How)

8. This is _____ an amazing story! (so/such)
9. I never want to speak to those _____ crooks again. (both/two)
10. He explained his _____ projects. (much/many)

Writing Exercise

5 min

Reorder the words and underline the determiners.

1. only / ate / plate / she / her / half

2. colleagues / amount / get / get / the / we / double / some

3. proud / many / of / is / achievements / he / his

4. lost / three / first / here / got / the / I / I / came / times

5. such / is / difficult / a / this / exercise

Writing Exercise

5 min

Tell your teacher which is the correct phrase: A, B or both?

A	B
1. the first two hours	1. the two first hours
2. a such good investment	2. such a good investment
3. several his objectives	3. his several objectives
4. my both ears	4. both my ears
5. two-fifths of the candidates	5. two-fifth candidates
6. twice the money	6. double the money
7. my two eyes	7. both my eyes
8. the all day	8. all the day
9. their few friends	9. few their friends
10. the last four days	10. the four last days

Reading Exercise with the Teacher

5 min

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

1. Most days, Jack speaks to Jennifer at least once a day.
2. He earns twice her salary.
3. Last week, he took her to quite an expensive restaurant.
4. That evening, he spent three times the amount he had anticipated!
5. What a gentleman!

Speaking Exercise with the Teacher

5 min

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

1. How often do you go to the cinema?
2. What part of a vacation do you usually enjoy most: the first few days or the last few days?
3. Do you have the same vision level with both of your eyes?
4. Do you check your emails all the time?
5. What have you been working on these last few days?

Watch the Video!

5 min

This video, about the More Birthdays Campaign of the American Cancer Society, will allow you to practice using pre-determiners, central determiners, and post-determiners.

Watch the video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9KI7QZRHfU>

Watch it again and complete the phrases from the video with the correct pre-determiners, central determiners, and post-determiners.

1. Timing 1:50, post-determiner:

On someone's birthday, let's say they're celebrating their _____
birthday, just a normal birthday

2. Timing 2:30, pre-determiner:

They can do _____ those things that they already do

3. In the name of the video, post-determiner:

More Birthdays - Behind the Scenes of Our _____ Step

Quiz

10 min

True or False?

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. Usually, we use several pre-determiners. | true | false |
| 2. 'next' is a pre-determiner. | true | false |
| 3. Some words can be determiners or post-determiners. | true | false |
| 4. It is rare to have a pre-determiner, a central determiner and a post-determiner in one sentence. | true | false |

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

1. all	a. pre-determiner
2. second	b. central determiner
3. mine	c. post-determiner
4. the	d. not a determiner

Put the words in the correct order:

1. three / first / failed / the / attempts

2. difference / their / a / quite / contributions / made

3. our / engineering / both / study / sons / chemical

4. several / we / successes / admire / his
