

Determiners

What are determiners?

- Determiners are words which introduce a noun.
- One or more determiners can be found before a noun.
- They do not have comparatives or superlatives.

	big	bigger	biggest	adjective
the	-	-	-	determiner
that	-	-	-	determiner
my	-	-	-	determiner
five	-	-	-	determiner

Types of determiners

1. Articles
2. Demonstratives
3. Possessives
4. Quantifiers

1. Articles

- There are two kinds of articles: the definite article (the) and the indefinite article (a or an)
- Nouns can be found with or without articles.

Dogs need to be walked every day.

The dogs need to be walked every day.

A dog needs to be walked every day.

2. Demonstratives

- There are four demonstratives: this, that, these and those.
- For these words to act as demonstratives, they must be in front of a noun.

That porridge was delicious. (**That** is a determiner)

That was delicious. (**That** is a pronoun)

Those people were so rude! (**Those** is a determiner)

Those were awful. (**Those** is a pronoun)

Can you identify the demonstrative determiners in the sentences below?

I prefer this cheese to that Cheddar.

These grapes came out of that box.

I haven't been doing much – just a bit of this and that.

Those chocolates are just asking to be eaten.

That's an enormous spot on your face!

These are much tastier than those apples.

Demonstrative determiners in red

I prefer **this** cheese to **that** Cheddar.

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3. Possessive determiners

- My, your, his, her, its, our and their, before a noun, will be possessive determiners.
- Mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours and theirs, on their own, are pronouns not determiners.

My writing is neater than yours.

The dog ate its food quickly.

His class are so lazy.

Her singing was more tuneful than his.

Their team beat ours.

It's not their fault her coat got lost.

Can you identify the possessive determiners in the sentences below?

1. She polished his shoes then hers.
2. It's a shame that its saddle is so small.
3. Her feet were smellier than his.
4. His cakes were sold whereas our biscuits weren't.
5. Our job is to make sure their cars are cleaned properly.
6. Ours is not an easy task.
7. It was my word against his.
8. Your bedtime should be after hers.

Possessive determiners in red

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4. Quantifier determiners – how many or how much of something.

- Numbers before a noun are quantifier determiners.

I ate **six** biscuits.

The flat's on the **sixth** floor.

I saw **2000** ants.

- Some, many, more, less, no, little, both, each, all, enough, half, whole, every, any, much, few, several, plenty, lots, a lot and ample are all examples of quantifier determiners.
- They **must** be before a noun otherwise they act as pronouns.

Several dogs wandered off. (determiner)

Several wandered off. (pronoun)

Most children support Norwich. (determiner)

Most support Norwich. (pronoun)

Some nouns are countable, others are not. You can use some quantifiers with both sorts.

- Did you have **lots of** fun on your holiday?
- There is still **some** dirt on the table.
- There are **some** people who couldn't care less.
- We found **many** spiders in the bath.
- There was **no** laughter in that house.

Which of the nouns (fun, dirt, people, spiders and laughter) are countable?

Sometimes determiners use the word 'of' before the noun.

- **Most of** the crowd thought it was a goal.
- He ate **some of** the chocolate.
- **Many of** the adverts were rubbish.
- **Half of** the bread was mouldy.
- He's had **plenty of** time to finish it.
- She wasted **all of** the money.
- **Some of** the geese had flown.

Can you identify the quantifier determiners in the sentences below?

1. He keeps six beetles in a jar under his bed.
2. If you spent less time on your Xbox, you would get more homework done.
3. She scored more with her second dive than her first.
4. In no time, he had plenty of apples in his basket.
5. Several lions had escaped from the first cage.
6. Each child had enough to last a whole month.
7. Both had spent all their money before the 3rd week in August.

Quantifier determiners in red

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Determiners with pronouns

- In some cases **determiners** can be used with **pronouns**.

All of them were wrong.

I would like **that one**.

I will eat **lots of those**.

She squashed **five of these**.

The one I really wanted was lost.

Can you identify all the determiners below?

1. The heavy rain flattened their sunflowers.
2. Those four boys need to eat theirs now.
3. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
4. There is no time like the present.
5. A stitch in time saves nine.
6. Her new clothes were more expensive than his.
7. Some people like these red apples but I prefer those.
8. Mr Smith kept his cool and gave Jake his fourth warning.
9. Can I have one of those please?

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Can you identify all the determiners below?

A first glance told her that her suspicions were justified – her evil brother had left his usual dirt on her brand new soap. Furthermore when she counted her Lush bath bombs in their box, there were seven. This morning ten bombs had filled the box. These smellies were one of her many luxuries.

This was not the first time Ben had made her angry. Yesterday Ben had sprayed half her perfume as air freshener and then tossed two bath bombs down their loo. When confronted, he had retorted, “My need is greater than yours.”

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