

Determiners

Gramatika 1 - 05

DETERMINERS

- typically **precede** Ns
- **clarify or modify** the meaning of Ns
- indicate whether **N refers to:**
 - a concrete thing/person
 - a specific number/quantity
 - a close/distant X
 - a part of X
- include:
 - **articles**, demonstrative/possessive **pronouns**, **quantifiers** (a few, many), **distributives** (each, any, either), **wh- determiners**, **numerals**

INDEFINITE ARTICLE

pronunciation

- **a** [ə] – before **consonant sounds**
an umbrella vs a uniform
a hall vs an hour (speech economy)
- [eɪ] – when speaking with **emphasis** or when **hesitating**
- **an** [ən] – before **vowel sounds**
Buy a house in an hour.
An MoD official visited an NBC facility of a NATO country.

INDEFINITE ARTICLE

- used with **sg countable** nouns
- used when we **mention sth for the first time**
*They bought **a** boat. They named the boat "Floater".*
- used as **an example of** sth
*A rose is **a** flower.
It was **a** strange car.*
- used as **a label**
*She's **an** actress. He's **a** catholic. She's **a** workaholic.*
- used to mean **'one'** when it doesn't matter which one
*Can I have **an** apple?*

DEFINITE ARTICLE

pronunciation

- [ðə] before **consonant sounds**
- [ði] before **vowel sounds**
- [ði:] when speaking with **emphasis** or when **hesitating**

DEFINITE ARTICLE

- used with **sg and pl countable nouns** and **uncountable nouns**
- used when the person/thing is known from context

The boat was very expensive.

- used when there is only one such thing/person

*The earth goes around **the** sun.*

- used with superlatives

*It was **the** best day of my life.*

- used in time expressions

- time sequences *in **the** beginning/middle/end*
- parts of the day *in **the** morning/afternoon/evening*
- seasons *in (**the**) spring/summer/ autumn/winter*
- dates *24 January (read as **the** 24th of January)*
- fixed time expressions *at **the** moment, for **the** time being*

POSSESSIVES AND DEMONSTRATIVES

- Possessives are used to indicate **ownership**.

my, your, his, her, its, our, their

- Demonstratives are used **to point at items**, making them **more specific** (than definite article)

this, that, these, those

Identify determiners in the following sentences:

1. An honest person would return the wallet to the owner.
2. My dog chased a rabbit.
3. This book is better than that one.
4. These apples are redder than those ones.
5. I gave my share to her sister.
6. There's one thing I need to ask you.
7. Their second child is due in October.
8. Every girl was given a number to wear.
9. Worry never robs tomorrow of its sorrow.

Which of the underlined words are determiners?

1. Five twos are ten.
2. Seven is my lucky number.
3. Each team consists of eleven players.
4. This car is better than the car over there.
5. They've invited me to a second interview.
6. He was the last to arrive, as usual.
7. Is that yours?
8. This is a very boring speaker.
9. What is that?
10. Can I borrow some sugar?