**DETERMINERS**

A determiner is used to modify a noun. It indicates reference to something specific or something of a particular type. This function is usually performed by articles, [demonstratives](http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-lesson-demonstratives.php), [possessive determiners](http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-lesson-possessive-adjectives.php), or [quantifiers](http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-lesson-quantifiers.php).

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| **Determiners** | **vs Pronouns** |
| Determiners are followed by a noun.   * ***The*** man * ***This*** book * ***Some*** people | Subject pronouns ( *I* , *you* , *he* , etc.) and possessive pronouns (*mine, yours, his,* etc.) cannot be determiners because they can never be followed by a noun. |

**Types of Determiners**

1. **Articles**

The definite and indefinite [articles](http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-lesson-articles.php) are all determiners.

* Definite article - ***the***
* Indefinite article - ***a*** or ***an*** (***a*** is used before a consonant sound; ***an*** is used before a vowel sound.)

Examples:

Close ***the*** door, please. I've got ***a*** friend in Canada.

1. **Demonstratives**

There are four [demonstrative determiners](http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-lesson-demonstratives.php) in English and they are: **this, that, these and those**

Note that demonstrative determiners can also be used as demonstrative pronouns. When they are used as determiners they are followed by the nouns they modify. Compare:

***This*** is my camera. (Demonstrative used as a pronoun, subject of the verb *is*)   
***This*** camera is mine. (Demonstrative used as a determiner modifying the noun *camera*.)

1. **Possessives**

[Possessive adjectives](http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-lesson-possessive-adjectives.php) **- my, your, his, her, its, our, your, their -** modify the noun following it in order to show possession.

Possessive determiners are different from [possessive pronouns](http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-lesson-possessive-pronouns.php) - **mine, his, hers, yours, ours, their.**

* Possessive pronouns can stand alone and are not followed by nouns.
* Possessive determiners, on the other hand, are followed by nouns.

Compare:

This is ***my*** house. (***my*** is a possessive determiner. It is followed by the noun *house* which it modifies)  
Is that car ***yours***? (***yours*** is a possessive pronoun. It is not followed by a noun.)

1. **Quantifiers**

[Quantifiers](http://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/grammar-lesson-quantifiers.php) are followed by nouns which they modify. Examples of quantifiers include:

some, any, few, little, more, much, many, each, every, both, all, enough, half, little, whole, less.

Quantifiers are commonly used before either countable or uncountable nouns.

He knows ***more*** people than his wife. ***Little*** knowledge is a dangerous thing.

**Exercise: Circle the correct determiner.**

1. Could you bring me \_\_\_\_\_\_ books I left in the garden?

a) this b) these c) that d) those

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ sun rises from the east.

a) the b) a c) an

1. The doctor advised me to eat \_\_\_\_\_\_ apple every morning.

a) the b) a c) an

1. There aren't \_\_\_\_\_\_ students in the library.

a) much b) many c) a lot

1. I haven't got \_\_\_\_\_\_ pictures in my bedroom.

a) some b) any c) many

1. She gave a cookie to \_\_\_\_\_\_ child.

a) any b) all c) each

1. I've got to solve \_\_\_\_\_\_ math problems before I go to sleep.

a) any b) some c) all

1. (*With a bowl of cherries on your lap*) \_\_\_\_\_\_ cherries are delicious!

a) this b) these c) that d) those

1. My mother doesn't drink \_\_\_\_\_\_ coffee.

a) much b) many c) a lot

1. I always keep \_\_\_\_\_\_ money in my wallet for emergencies.

a) any b) every c) some

