

Grammar - Determiners

Determiners are words such as this, those, my, their, which. They are special adjectives that are used before nouns.

Articles

The words **a**, **an** and **the** belong to this group of words called **determiners**.

The words **a** and **an** are called **indefinite articles**. You can use them with singular nouns to talk about any single person or thing. Examples:

Rudy is reading **a** book.

This is a picture of **an** elephant.

She eats an apple **a** day.

The article **an** is *usually* used before words beginning with **vowels**. The article **a** is *usually* used before words beginning with **consonants**.

The word **the** is called the definite article. Use **the** before a noun when you are talking about a certain person or thing. Examples:

The telephone is ringing.

Tom has won **the** race.

You also use **the** before a noun when there is only one. For example:

the sun

the moon

the sky

the front door of my house

Demonstrative Determiners

The words **this**, **that**, **these**, and **those** are called **demonstrative determiners** or **demonstrative adjectives**. They are used to tell which thing or person you mean. Examples:

I am keeping **these** books.

This ice cream is delicious.

What is **that** animal?

Sarah lives with **those** people.

You can use **this** and **these** to point to people or things near you. You use **that** and **those** to point to people or things that are farther from you.

Singular	Plural
this	these
that	those

Interrogative Determiners

Use the words **what**, **which**, and **whose** before nouns to ask about people or things. These words are called **interrogative determiners** or **interrogative adjectives**. Examples:

What kind of bird is that?

What size do you wear?

Which runner will finish first?

Whose dog is barking in the middle of the night?

Which team is your favorite?

Possessive Determiners

The words **my**, **your**, **his**, **her**, **its**, **our**, **their** are called possessive determiners or possessive adjectives. Use these words before nouns to say who something belongs to. Examples:

I lent Margaret **my** guitar.

The dentist asked **her** patient to open **his** mouth.

Your handwriting is difficult to read.

My sister lives in a large city.

Our mother bakes delicious cookies.

Their teacher speaks clearly.

Its speed is one reason why many choose to buy it.

	Singular	Plural
First person	my	our
Second person	your	your
Third person	his her its	their their their

Exercise #1: Fill in the blanks with a, an or the. For some, there may be more than one answer.

1. _____ owl
2. _____ rocket
3. _____ sun
4. _____ computer
5. _____ moon
6. _____ Mississippi River
7. _____ eagle
8. _____ baby

Exercise #2: Write a, an or the in the blanks to complete the sentences.

1. There is _____ rainbow in _____ sky.
2. Who is _____ man outside the _____ gate?
3. _____ doctor gave Jane _____ injection.
4. Paul opened _____ door to let _____ dog in.
5. Marissa is _____ only child in _____ family.
6. What's _____ largest animal in _____ world?
7. We reached _____ top of _____ mountain in three hours.
8. Sue is writing _____ letter to her grandfather.

Exercise #3: Fill in the blanks with the correct demonstrative adjectives. (**this, that, these, those**). Some may have more than one possible answer.

1. Come and look at _____ insects.
2. Stop _____ man!
3. Bring _____ papers to the boss please.
4. Can you see _____ stars in the sky?
5. _____ is our school.
6. _____ house has five bedrooms.

Exercise #4: Choose the correct possessive adjectives to fill in the blanks. (my, his, your, her, its, our, their)

1. The dog is chasing _____ own tail.
2. Billy is showing _____ stamps to Raymond.
3. We always keep _____ classroom clean.
4. The students are working at _____ table.
5. I am going to _____ aunt's house for Thanksgiving.

Exercise #5: Choose the correct interrogative adjectives to fill in the blanks. (what, which, whose). Some may have more than one possible answer.

1. _____ kind of animal is that?
2. _____ is the matter?
3. _____ hand is holding the ball?
4. _____ cell phone is ringing?
5. _____ twin is taller?