



# DETERMINERS IN ENGLISH#1

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Subject: English Language - Lecture # 6

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Determiners are words placed in front of a noun to make it clear what the noun refers to.

## DETERMINERS IN ENGLISH

- Definite article : **the**
- Indefinite articles : **a, an**
- Demonstratives: **this, that, these, those**
- Pronouns and possessive determiners : **my, your, his, her, its, our, their**
- Quantifiers : **a few, a little, much, many, a lot of, most, some, any, enough**
- Numbers : **one, ten, thirty**
- Distributives : **all, both, half, either, neither, each, every**
- Difference words : **other, another**
- Pre-determiners : **such, what, rather, quite**

# THE DEFINITE ARTICLE

- The word "the" is one of the most common words in English. It is our only definite article.
- Nouns in English are preceded by the definite article when the speaker believes that the listener already knows what he is referring to. The speaker may believe this for many different reasons, some of which are listed below.

## WHEN TO USE "THE"

### • GENERAL RULES

- Use the to refer to something which has already been mentioned.
- On Monday, an unarmed man stole \$1,000 from the bank. **The thief** hasn't been caught yet.
- I was walking past Benny's Bakery when I decided to go into **the bakery** to get some bread.
- There's a position available in my team. **The job** will involve some international travel.

- Use the when you assume there is just one of something in that place, even if it has not been mentioned before.
  - We went on a walk in **the forest** yesterday.
  - Where is **the bathroom**?
  - Turn left and go to number 45. Our house is across from **the Italian restaurant**.
  - My father enjoyed **the book** you gave him.
- Use the in sentences or clauses where you define or identify a particular person or object.
  - **The man** who wrote this book is famous.
  - I scratched **the red car** parked outside.
  - I live in **the small house** with a blue door.
  - He is **the doctor** I came to see.
- Use the to refer to people or objects that are unique.
  - **The sun** rose at 6:17 this morning.
  - You can go anywhere in **the world**.
  - Clouds drifted across **the sky**.
  - **The president** will be speaking on TV tonight.
  - **The CEO** of Total is coming to our meeting.

- Use the before superlatives and ordinal numbers.
  - This is **the highest building** in New York.
  - She read **the last chapter** of her new book first.
  - You are **the tallest person** in our class.
  - This is **the third time** I have called you today.
- Use the with adjectives, to refer to a whole group of people.
  - **The French** enjoy cheese.
  - **The elderly** require special attention.
  - She has given a lot of money to **the poor**.
- Use the with decades.
  - He was born in **the seventies**.
  - This is a painting from **the 1820's**.

- Use the with clauses introduced by *only*
  - This is **the only day** we've had sunshine all week.
  - You are **the only person** he will listen to.
  - **The only tea** I like is black tea.

## PROPER NOUNS

- Use the with names of geographical areas, rivers, mountain ranges, groups of islands, canals, and oceans.
  - They are travelling in **the Arctic**.
  - Our ship crossed **the Atlantic** in 7 days.
  - I will go on a cruise down **the Nile**.
  - Hiking across **the Rocky Mountains** would be difficult.

- Use the with countries that have plural names
  - I have never been to **the Netherlands**.
  - Do you know anyone who lives in **the Philippines**?
- Use the with countries that include the words "republic", "kingdom", or "states" in their names.
  - She is visiting **the United States**.
  - James is from **the Republic of Ireland**.
- Use the with newspaper names.
  - I read it in **the Guardian**.
  - She works for **the New York Times**.
- Use the with the names of famous buildings, works of art, museums, or monuments.
  - Have you been to **the Vietnam Memorial**?
  - We went to **the Louvre** and saw **the Mona Lisa**.
  - I would like to visit **the Eiffel Tower**.
  - I saw King Lear at **the Globe**.

- Use *the* with the names of hotels & restaurants, unless these are named after a person.
  - They are staying at **the Hilton** on 6th street.
  - We ate at **the Golden Lion**.
- Use *the* with the names of families, but not with the names of individuals.
  - We're having dinner with **the Smiths** tonight.
  - **The Browns** are going to the play with us.

## WHEN NOT TO USE "THE"

- Do not use *the* with names of countries (except for the special cases above).
  - Germany is an important economic power.
  - He's just returned from Zimbabwe.
- Do not use *the* with the names of languages.
  - French is spoken in Tahiti.
  - English uses many words of Latin origin.
  - Indonesian is a relatively new language.
- Do not use *the* with the names of meals.
  - Lunch is my favorite meal.
  - I like to eat breakfast early.

- Do not use *the* with people's names.
  - John is coming over later.
  - Mary Carpenter is my boss.
- Do not use *the* with titles when combined with names.
  - Prince Charles is Queen Elizabeth's son.
  - President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.
- Do not use *the* after the 's possessive case
  - His brother's car was stolen.
  - Peter's house is over there.
- Do not use *the* with professions
  - Engineering is a well-paid career.
  - He'll probably study medicine.
- Do not use *the* with names of shops
  - I'll get the card at Carrefour's.
  - Can you go to Boots for me?

- Do not use *the* with years
  - 1948 was a wonderful year.
  - He was born in 1995.
- Do not use *the* with uncountable nouns
  - Rice is an important food in Asia.
  - Milk is often added to tea in England.
  - War is destructive.
- Do not use *the* with the names of individual mountains, lakes and islands
  - Mount McKinley is the highest mountain in Alaska.
  - She lives near Lake Windermere.
  - Have you visited Long Island?
- Do not use *the* with most names of towns, streets, stations and airports
  - Victoria Station is in the center of London.
  - Can you direct me to Bond Street?
  - She lives in Florence.
  - They're flying into Heathrow.

# INDEFINITE ARTICLES

- In English, the two indefinite articles are a and an.
- Like other articles, indefinite articles are invariable.
- You use one or the other, depending on the first letter of the word following the article, for pronunciation reasons.
- Use a when the next word starts with a consonant, or before words starting in *u* and *eu* when they sound like *you*.
- Use an when the next word starts with a vowel (*a, e, i, o, u*) or with a mute *h*.

a boy, an apple, a car, a helicopter, an elephant, a big elephant, an itchy sweater, an ugly duck, an hour, an honor

- The indefinite article is used to refer to something for the first time or to refer to a particular member of a group or class. Some use cases and examples are given below.
- Use *a* to refer to something for the first time.
  - Would you like **a drink**?
  - I've finally got **a good job**.
  - An elephant and **a mouse** fell in love.

## NAMING MEMBERS OF A GROUP

- Use *a* with names of jobs.
- **John is a doctor.**
  - Mary is training to be **an engineer**.
  - He wants to be **a dancer**.

- Use *a* with nationalities and religions in the singular.
  - John is **an Englishman**.
  - Kate is **a Catholic**.
- Use *a* with the names of days of the week when not referring to any particular day.
  - I was born on **a Thursday**.
  - Could I come over on **a Saturday** sometime?
- Use *a* to refer to an example of something.
  - The mouse had **a tiny nose** .
  - The elephant had **a long trunk** .
  - It was **a very strange car** .
- Use *a* with singular nouns after the words 'what' and 'such'.
  - **What a shame !**
  - She's such **a beautiful girl** .
  - **What a lovely day !**

- Use *a* meaning 'one', referring to a single object or person, or a single unit of measure. In these sentences using "one" instead of the indefinite article is grammatically correct. It will add emphasis to the number, and contrast with other numbers.
- I'd like **an orange** and two lemons please.
- I'd like **one orange** and two lemons please.
- The burglar took **a diamond necklace** and some valuable paintings.
- I can think of **a hundred reasons** not to come.
- I need **a kilogram** of sugar.
- I need **one kilogram** of sugar.
- You can't run **a mile** in 5 minutes!

# DEMONSTRATIVES

- Demonstratives: this, that, these, those
- Demonstratives show where an object, event, or person is in relation to the speaker.
- They can refer to a physical or a psychological closeness or distance.
- When talking about events, the near demonstratives are often used to refer to the present while the far demonstratives often refer to the past.

	Near the speaker	Far from the speaker
Adverb	Here	There
Demonstrative with singular nouns & uncountable nouns	This	That
Demonstrative with plural countable nouns	These	Those

## DEMONSTRATIVE USAGE

Near the speaker	Far from the speaker
Is <b>this</b> John's house?	Is <b>that</b> John's house over there?
<b>This</b> is a nice surprise!	<b>That</b> must have been a nice surprise for you.
<b>These</b> apples are mine.	<b>Those</b> apples are yours.
What are you up to <b>these</b> days?	<b>Those</b> days are long gone.
<b>This</b> time I won't be late.	We really surprised you <b>that</b> time.
<b>This</b> sugar is for my crepes.	You can use <b>that</b> sugar for your cake.

## SENTENCE PLACEMENT

- Demonstratives can be placed before the noun or the adjective that modifies the noun.
- **This blue car** needs to be washed next.
- **Those people** were here first.
- **That metal rod** should work.
- **These oranges** are delicious.
- Demonstratives can also appear before a number by itself when the noun is understood from the context.
  - I'd like to try on **that one**.
  - **This one** is broken.
  - I'll take **these three**.
  - **Those two** are not as pretty as **these two**.
- Demonstratives can be used by themselves when the noun they modify is understood from the context.
  - I'll never forget **this**.
  - **That** has nothing to do with me.
  - I didn't ask for **these**.
  - **Those** aren't mine.

# PRONOUNS

	Subject Pronoun	Object Pronoun	Possessive Adjective (Determiner)	Possessive Pronoun	Reflexive or Intensive Pronoun
<b>1st person singular</b>	I	me	my	mine	myself
<b>2nd person singular</b>	you	you	your	yours	yourself
<b>3rd person singular, male</b>	he	him	his	his	himself
<b>3rd person singular, female</b>	she	her	her	hers	herself
<b>3rd person singular, neutral</b>	it	it	its		itself
<b>1st person plural</b>	we	us	our	ours	ourselves
<b>2nd person plural</b>	you	you	your	yours	yourselves
<b>3rd person plural</b>	they	them	their	theirs	themselves

# QUANTIFIERS

- Quantifiers are adjectives and adjectival phrases that give approximate or specific answers to the questions "How much?" and "How many?"

## QUANTIFIERS IN ENGLISH

- Numbers in English: ordinal, cardinal, and percentages
- Choosing the right quantifier: countable and uncountable nouns
- Expressing opinions about quantity
- Indefinite and incomplete quantities
- Using graded quantifiers to compare amounts
- Using the quantifier "enough"

## NUMBERS IN ENGLISH

- The cardinal numbers (one, two, three, etc.) are adjectives referring to quantity.
- The ordinal numbers (first, second, third, etc.) refer to distribution.

Number	Cardinal	Ordinal
1	one	first
2	two	second
3	three	third

- There are **twenty-five** people in the room.
- He was the **fourteenth** person to win the award.
- **Six hundred thousand** people were left homeless after the earthquake.
- I must have asked you **twenty** times to be quiet.
- He went to Israel for the **third** time this year.

## READING DECIMALS

- Read decimals aloud in English by pronouncing the decimal point as "point", then read each digit individually.
- Money is not read this way.

Written	Said
0.5	point five
0.25	point two five
0.73	point seven three
0.05	point zero five
0.6529	point six five two nine
2.95	two point nine five

## READING FRACTIONS

- Read fractions using the cardinal number for the numerator and the ordinal number for the denominator,
- making the ordinal number plural if the numerator is larger than 1.
- This applies to all numbers except for the number 2, which is read "half" when it is the denominator, and "halves" if there is more than one.

Written	Said
$1/3$	one third
$3/4$	three fourths
$5/6$	five sixths
$1/2$	one half
$3/2$	three halves

## PRONOUNCING PERCENTAGES

- Percentages are easy to read aloud in English. Just say the number and then add the word "percent".

Written	Pronounced
5%	five percent
25%	twenty-five percent
36.25%	thirty-six point two five percent
100%	one hundred percent
400%	four hundred percent

## READING SUMS OF MONEY

- To read a sum of money, first read the whole number, then add the currency name.
- If there is a decimal, follow with the decimal pronounced as a whole number, and if coinage has a name in the currency, add that word at the end.
- Note that normal decimals are not read in this way. These rules only apply to currency.

Written	Spoken
25\$	twenty-five dollars
52€	fifty-two euros
140£	one hundred and forty pounds
\$43.25	forty-three dollars and twenty-five cents (shortened to "forty-three twenty-five" in everyday speech)
€12.66	twelve euros sixty-six
£10.50	ten pounds fifty

## PRONOUNCING MEASUREMENTS

- Just read out the number, followed by the unit of measurement, which will often be abbreviated in the written form.

Written	Spoken
60m	sixty meters
25km/h	twenty-five kilometers per hour
11ft	eleven feet
2L	two liters
3tbsp	three tablespoons
1tsp	one teaspoon

## PRONOUNCING YEARS

- Reading years in English is relatively complicated. In general,
- when the year is a four digit number, read the first two digits as a whole number, then the second two digits as another whole number.
- There are a few exceptions to this rule.
  - Years that are within the first 100 years of a new millenium can be read as whole numbers even though they have four digits, or they can be read as two two-digit numbers.
  - Millennia are always read as whole numbers because they would be difficult to pronounce otherwise.
  - New centuries are read as whole numbers of hundreds. We do not use the word "thousand", at least not for reading years within the past 1000

- Years that have just three digits can be read as a three digit number, or as a one digit number followed by a two-digit number.
- Years that are a two digit number are read as a whole number. You can precede any year by the words "the year" to make your meaning clear, and this is common for two and three digit years.
- Years before the year 0 are followed by BC, pronounced as two letters of the alphabet.
- Interestingly, these rules apply to reading street addresses as well

Written	Spoken	Written	Spoken
2014	twenty fourteen or two thousand fourteen	1256	twelve fifty-six
2008	two thousand eight	1006	ten o six
2000	two thousand	866	eight hundred sixty-six or eight sixty-six
1944	nineteen forty-four	25	twenty-five
1908	nineteen o eight	3000 BC	three thousand BC
1900	nineteen hundred	3250 BC	thirty two fifty BC
1600	sixteen hundred		

## HOW TO SAY 0

- There are several ways to pronounce the number 0, used in different contexts. Unfortunately, usage varies between different English-speaking countries. These pronunciations apply to American English.

Pronunciation	Usage
zero	Used to read the number by itself, in reading decimals, percentages, and phone numbers, and in some fixed expressions.
o (the letter name)	Used to read years, addresses, times and temperatures
nil	Used to report sports scores
nought	Not used in the USA

Written	Said
$3.04+2.02=5.06$	Three point zero four plus two point zero two makes five point zero six.
There is a 0% chance of rain.	There is a zero percent chance of rain.
The temperature is $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .	The temperature is twenty degrees below zero.
You can reach me at 0171 390 1062.	You can reach me at zero one seven one, three nine zero, one zero six two
I live at 4604 Smith Street.	I live at forty-six o four Smith Street
He became king in 1409.	He became king in fourteen o nine.
I waited until 4:05.	I waited until four o five.
The score was 4-0.	The score was four nil.

## PICK THE RIGHT QUANTIFIER

- To answer the questions *How much?* and *How many?* certain quantifiers can be used with countable nouns (friends, cups, people), others with uncountable nouns (sugar, tea, money) and still others will all types of nouns.

Only with uncountable nouns	With all types of nouns	Only with countable nouns
a little	no, none, not any	a few
a bit of	some	a number of
	any	several
a great deal of	a lot of, lots of	a great number of
a large amount of	plenty of	a large number of

- Would you like **some tea** and **a few cookies**?
- I always put **a little milk** and **some carrots** in my soup.
- He has **several apples**. I don't have **any fruit** at all.
- She has **plenty of clothes** for the winter.
- I received **a large amount of feedback** from my survey.

## USING "MUCH" AND "MANY"

- Much and many are mainly used in interrogative and negative sentences. They are also used in affirmative and negative sentences in combination with too and so.
- Notice: the word many can be used alone in affirmative sentences while the word much cannot.
- Much is replaced in affirmative sentences with a lot of or lots of (these expressions can also replace many).

Uncountable nouns	Countable nouns
How much sugar do you have?	How many people came to the concert?
There's not much sugar at the store.	Not many people came to the concert.
I have too much sugar at home.	There were too many people at the concert.
I don't know what to do with so much sugar.	It's a problem when there are so many people.
I wish there was not so much sugar here.	There were not so many people last year.
There is a lot of sugar in candy.	There are many people who want to come. = There are a lot of people who want to come.

## EXPRESSING OPINIONS ABOUT QUANTITY

- The quantifiers *few* and *a few*, and *little* and *a little* seem nearly identical but they are actually quite distinct. These expressions show the speaker's attitude towards the quantity he is referring to as either positive or negative.

### POSITIVE ATTITUDE

- **A few** (for countable nouns) and **a little** (for uncountable nouns) describe the quantity in a positive way, implying that although the speaker may not have much, he has enough.
  - **I've got a few friends.** = I have enough friends.
  - **I have a few flowers in my garden.** = I have enough flowers.
  - **I've got a little money.** = I have enough money.
  - **I have a little free time on Thursdays.** = I have enough free time.

## NEGATIVE ATTITUDE

- **Few** (for countable nouns) and **little** (for uncountable nouns) describe the quantity in a negative way. They may actually indicate a total lack of the noun, but are more polite than saying so directly.
- **Few people visited him in hospital.** = he had almost no visitors, or perhaps no visitors at all.
- **I've seen few birds around here.** = there are almost no birds, or perhaps not a single bird
- **He had little money for treats.** = almost no money, or perhaps no money at all
- **I have little time for TV** = almost no time, or perhaps no time at all

# INDEFINITE AND INCOMPLETE QUANTITIES

Some and any can be used with countable and uncountable nouns to describe an undefined or incomplete quantity.

## USING "SOME"

- *Some* can be used in descriptive sentences.
- I had **some** rice for lunch.
- He got **some** books from the library.
- I will have **some** news next week.
- Philip wants **some** help with his exams.
- There is **some** butter in the fridge.

- *Some* is also used in interrogative sentences when you think you already know the answer.
  - Did he give you **some** tea? = I think he did.
  - Is there **some** fruit juice in the fridge? = I think there is.
  - Would you like **some** help? = Probably you do.
  - Will you have **some** roast beef? = Probably you will
- *Some* can also be used in interrogative sentences to ask for something or to offer something.
  - Could I have **some** books, please?
  - Why don't you take **some** apples home with you?
  - Would you like **some** tea?
  - Will you have **some** cake?

## USING "ANY"

- *Any* is used in interrogative sentences when you do not know the answer.
  - Do you have **any** friends in London?
  - Do they have **any** children?
  - Do you want **any** groceries from the shop?
  - Are there **any** problems with your work?
- *Any* is also used with not to form negative sentences. In these sentences, the word *any* emphasizes the negativity to make it more absolute.
  - They don't need **any** help moving to their new house.
  - She doesn't want **any** kitchen appliances for Christmas.
  - I don't want **any** cake.
  - There isn't **any** reason to complain.

# GRADED QUANTIFIERS

- Graded quantifiers allow us to compare the quantity of one thing with the quantity of another, without specifying an exact quantity for either element.
- Graded quantifiers precede nouns.
- Different quantifiers are needed for countable and uncountable nouns.
- Sometimes the noun can be omitted when it is understood from the context.
- They are distinct from comparatives and superlatives, which compare the degrees of a quality (adjectives) or the degree of the manner something was done (adverbs) .
- Graded quantifiers, like comparatives and superlatives, hold a relative position on a scale of increase or decrease. The superlative grade is always preceded by *the* in a sentence.

quantifier	comparative grade	superlative grade
<b>With plural countable nouns</b>		
many	more	most
few	fewer	fewest
<b>With uncountable nouns</b>		
much	more	most
little	less	least

- There are **many people** in England, **more people** in India, but **the most people** live in China.
- **Much time and money** is spent on education, **more** on health services but **the most** is spent on national defence.
- **Few rivers** in Europe are not polluted.
- **Fewer people** die young now than in the seventeenth century.
- The country with **the fewest people** per square kilometer must be Australia.
- Scientists have **little hope** of finding a complete cure for cancer before the year 2020.
- She had **less time** to study than Paul but had better results.
- Give that dog **the least opportunity** and it will bite you.

## ENOUGH AS A QUANTIFIER

- Enough can be used as a quantifier when it is placed before any noun, to indicate the quantity required or necessary.
- It can be used in both affirmative and negative sentences.
  - There is **enough bread** for lunch.
  - She has **enough money**.
  - There are not **enough apples** for all of us.
  - I don't have **enough sugar** to make a cake.
- The word enough can also be an adverb of degree, in which case it is not placed before a noun.

Thank you for your attention

