



DETERMINERS IN ENGLISH#2

Subject: English Language - Lecture # 7

مدرسة المادة : الدكتورة روضة برهان الدين عبدالرحمن

Kirkuk University - College of Science

Physics Department – 1st grade

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**

DISTRIBUTIVES

- Distributive determiners refer to a group of people or things, and to individual members of the group.
- They show different ways of looking at the individuals within a group, and they express how something is distributed, shared, or divided.
- **USING DISTRIBUTIVES**
- Using "each" and "every" to talk about the members of a group as individuals
- Using "all" to talk about the whole group
- Using "half" to talk about a divided group
- Using "both", "either", and "neither" to talk about pairs of people or things

USING "EACH" AND "EVERY"

- Each is a way of seeing the members of a group as individuals, while every is a way of seeing a group as a series of members.
- These distributives can only be used in countable nouns.
- They are normally used with singular nouns, and are placed before the noun.
In many cases, they are interchangeable.
- **Each child** received a present.
- **Every child** received a present.
- I gave **each plant** some water.
- I gave **every plant** some water.

- Each can also be used with plural nouns and pronouns but must be followed by 'of'. Every cannot be used with plural nouns.
 - **Each of the children** received a present.
 - I gave **each of the plants** some water.
 - He told **each of us** our jobs.
 - I gave **each of them** a kiss.
- Every can express different points in a series, especially with time expressions. Each works in the same way, but is less common.
 - **Every morning** John goes jogging.
 - This magazine is published **every week**.
 - I have my coffee here **every day**.
 - I go visit my mother **each week**.
 - **Each Monday**, he buys a kilo of apples.

USING "ALL" AS A DISTRIBUTIVE

The distributive determiner all is used to talk about a whole group, with a special emphasis on the fact that nothing has been left out. All can be used as a distributive in several different patterns:

- All can be used with uncountable nouns and plural countable nouns by itself.
In this usage, it refers to the group as a concept rather than as individuals.
 - **All cheese** contains protein.
 - I like **all dogs**.
 - **All children** need affection.
 - This soap is for **all purposes**.

- All can be used with uncountable nouns and plural countable nouns preceded by the or a possessive pronoun. In this case, the meaning is shifted towards referring to a concrete, physical group rather than the group as a concept. In these uses, the word of can be added just after all with no change in meaning.
 - **All the people** in the room were silent.
 - **All of the birds** flew away.
 - Have you eaten **all the bread**?
 - I will need **all of the sugar**.
 - I've invited **all my friends** to the party.
 - I've used up **all of our eggs**.
 - You wasted **all your time**.

- All can be used with plural pronouns preceded by of.
 - **All of us** are going.
 - He scolded **all of you**.
 - Did you find **all of them**?
- All can be used in questions and exclamations with uncountable nouns preceded by this or that. In these uses, the word of can be added just after all with no change in meaning.
 - Who has left **all this paper** on my desk?
 - Look at **all this snow**!
 - Why is **all of that sugar** on the floor?
 - Where did **all of this confetti** come from?

- *All* can be used in questions and exclamations with countable nouns preceded by *these* or *those*. In these uses, the word *of* can be added just after *all* with no change in meaning.
 - Look at **all those balloons!**
 - Where did **all of those books** come from?
 - Why are **all these children** crying?

USING "HALF" AS A DISTRIBUTIVE

The distributive determiner half is used to talk about a whole group divided in two.

Half can be used as a distributive in several different patterns.

Other fractions can be used in the same patterns, although they are less frequent.

- Half can be used with measurements preceded by an indefinite article (a or an). In this usage, it refers to a measurement.
 - I had **half a cup** of milk left.
 - I bought **half a kilo** of flour.
 - He ran **half a mile** this morning.
 - I will be back in **half a minute**.
- Half can be used with plural pronouns preceded by of.
 - **Half of us** are going.
 - He scolded **half of you** but he let the rest of.
 - You couldn't find **half of them**?

DISTRIBUTIVES FOR PAIRS OF OBJECTS

- The distributive determiners both, either and neither are concerned with distribution between a pair of objects.
- Normally, these words cannot be used to refer to a group of three or more individuals. They also cannot be used to refer to a group of indefinite size.
- These distributives can only refer to countable nouns.

USING "BOTH"

- Both refers to the whole pair and is equivalent to "one and the other".
- Both can be used with plural nouns on its own, or it can be followed by "of", with or without an article. When followed by a plural pronoun,
- *Both* must be separated from the pronoun by "of".
- *Both* cannot be used with singular nouns, because it refers to two things.
- **Both children** were born in Italy.
- **Both the children** were born in Italy.
- **Both of the children** were born in Italy.
- **Both my parents** have fair hair.
- **Both of my parents** have fair hair.
- **Both of us** like skiing.
- I told **both of them** to calm down.

- Half can be used with nouns preceded by the, a, an demonstrative, or a possessive pronoun. In this case, the meaning refers to a concrete, physical division. The word of can be added just after half with no change in meaning.
- **Half the people** have already left.
- **Half of an apple** isn't very much lunch.
- Did you use **half my sugar**?
- I will need **half of the flour** for my cake.
- I earned **half of that money** last summer.
- She found **half these frogs** in the river.
- I spent **half that time** on my project.
- You can take **half of those books** back.
- I've invited **half my friends** to the party.
- I've used up **half of our eggs**.
- You wasted **half your money** on that!

USING "EITHER"

- Either is positive and when used alone, refers to one of the two members of the pair. It is equivalent to "one or the other".
- Because it refers to just one member of a pair, either must be used before a singular noun. It can also be used with a plural noun or pronoun if followed by "of".
 - I can stay at **either hotel**.
 - **Either day** is fine for me.
 - There are two chairs here. You can take **either of them**.
 - **Either of you** can come.
 - **Either of the hotels** will be fine.
 - I can eat **either of the salads**.
- Either can also be used with or in a construction that talks about each member of the pair in turn. The meaning remains the same, but in this case *either* is not functioning as a distributive. It is functioning as a conjunction.
 - You can have **either ice cream or chocolate cake**.
 - I will come on **either Thursday or Friday**.
 - You can **either come inside or put on your raincoat**.

USING "NEITHER"

- Neither is negative and when used alone, refers to the whole pair. It is equivalent to "not one or the other". Because it refers to just one member of a pair, neither must be used before a singular noun. It can also be used with a plural noun or pronoun if followed by "of".
 - **Neither chair is good.**
 - **Neither brother came.**
 - Which bag do you want? **Neither of them.**
 - **Neither of us** were on time.
 - I think **neither of these dresses** fits me.
 - **Neither of the children** wanted to go.
- Neither can also be used with nor in a construction that talks about each member of the pair in turn. The meaning remains the same, but in this case *neither* is not functioning as a distributive. It is functioning as a conjunction.
 - You can have **neither** cookies **nor** candy.
 - It is **neither** raining **nor** snowing.
 - She is **neither** tall **nor** short.

DETERMINERS OF DIFFERENCE

- The determiners other and another refer to something different, remaining, or additional.
- They are placed before a noun.
- The other is treated separately because its usage is slightly different.

Other	Plural countable nouns and all uncountable nouns
Another	Singular countable nouns
The other	Any noun that can take the definite article "the"

USING "OTHER"

- Other can come after the determiners some, any, and no.
 - Do you have **other shoes**?
 - There are **other jobs** you could try.
 - Is there **any other bread**?
 - I have **some other sugar** we could use.
 - We have **no other ideas**.
- If used with a plural countable noun and one of these determiners, the noun may be omitted when it is understood from the context. In that case, *other* becomes plural.
This can also happen with other used by itself, but it is less common.
 - Do you have **any others**?
 - I know **some others** who might like to come.
 - There are **no others** in this box.
 - I know **others** like vanilla, but I prefer chocolate.
 - She doesn't have to wear that dress. She has **others**.

USING "ANOTHER"

- Another is used with singular countable nouns.
- For uncountable nouns, another is often used with measure words that are singular.
- **Have another cookie.**
- **Would you like another cup of tea?**
- **He has another brother.**
- **I don't have another car.**
- **I'll come by another time.**

USING "THE OTHER"

- If the other is modifying a plural countable noun, the noun may be omitted when it is understood from the context. In that case, *other* will become plural.
- **Where is the other box of cereal?**
- **I work on the weekend and go to school on the other days of the week.**
- **May I use the other honey for my recipe?**
- **I enjoyed the first book but I didn't read the other books in the series.**
- **Have you seen the others?**
- **Jim ate two cookies. I ate the others.**

PRE-DETERMINERS

Pre-determiners are normally placed before an **indefinite article + adjective + noun** to express an opinion about the noun they modify. Such and what are used to express surprise or other emotions.

- **What a lovely day!**
- **She's such a beautiful woman.**
- **You can't imagine what an incredible meal I just ate.**
- **I've had such a good time today!**

- *Rather* and *quite* are commenting words, referring to the degree of a particular quality as expressed by the adjective that modifies the noun. They can express disappointment, pleasure, or other emotions depending on the adjective in question.
- In British English, *rather* is used as a pre-determiner. In American English it is only used as an adverb. The examples given below are British English.
 - **It was quite a nice day.**
 - **He's had quite a bad accident.**
 - **It's rather a small car.**
 - **I've just met rather a nice man.**

Thank you for your attention

