

Determiners

A determiner is a word that is placed in front of a noun or a noun phrase to make it clear which person or thing you are referring to, and whether you mean just one or more than one.

There are several different types of determiner:

Definite articles – **the** stray dog, **the** book on **the** table

Indefinite articles – **an** apple, **a** beautiful picture

Possessive determiners (showing what belongs to whom) – **my, your, her, his, their, our, its**

Interrogative determiners (often go before a question) – **what, which, whose**

Quantifiers (how many) – **some, many, few, more, less, several, any, a lot of, enough, all, one, two**



Remember that if the next word after the determiner begins with a vowel sound, you use 'an' instead of 'a': **a** bruised banana; **an** amazing adventure.

When the word begins with 'h', use 'a' or 'an' depending on whether you pronounce the 'h' sound or not: **a** horse; **an** hour.

You may be asked to identify the determiner in a sentence or passage.

Underline the determiners in the passage.

It was a warm, sunny day. The sky was blue, and several birds could be seen building their nests in preparation for the arrival of new-born chicks.

First, identify the nouns in the passage. In this case, they are 'day', 'sky', 'birds', 'nests', 'arrival' and 'chicks'.

Then look for the determiner that comes before each of these nouns:

day – **a** (indefinite article)

nests – **their** (possessive determiner)

sky – **the** (definite article)

arrival – **the** (definite article)

birds – **several** (quantifier)

chicks – no apparent determiner

Answer:

It was a warm, sunny day. The sky was blue, and several birds could be seen building their nests in preparation for the arrival of new-born chicks.



Underline the determiners in each sentence.

1. His room was large and spacious with many bookcases and enough books squeezed on to them to fill a library!
2. I gave every orange-flavoured sweet I found to my sister.
3. Do you know if we have any pencils left in the stationery cupboard?
4. Those flowers are so beautiful and look perfect in that vase.
5. Which dessert would you like to choose from this delicious selection?
6. An angry customer charged through the shop like a raging rhinoceros.