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APC English

week 8 lesson 1

Determiners

Introduction

- Articles
- Practice Exercises
- Other Determiners
- Practice Exercises

determiners

A determiner is **a word that modifies, describes, or introduces a noun**

Determiners can be used to

- clarify what a noun refers to
 - e.g., **your** pen
- to indicate quantity or number
 - e.g., **four** wheels

Determining Noun Types:

Determiners help specify whether a noun is definite or indefinite.

- **the** car (definite)
- **a** car (indefinite)
- **an** apple (indefinite)

Articles

Parts of speech

Articles

type of determiner

Modify nouns

a, an, the

the blue pen

John is a good friend

the big park was fun

Articles

Refer to specific or general

A blue pen

could be any pen that is blue

The blue pen

is a specific pen

Articles

Choose a number
(any number)

1 2 3 4 5

Choose the number
(the number)

a 2 u Q !

Articles

Choose a country that you have lived

(answer could be any country - that you have lived)

e.g. Ireland, England, Thailand

Choose the country that you live

(answer could only be one country - that you live)

e.g. Thailand

Plural

Definite articles

The apple

The apples

The car

The cars

Indefinite articles

An apple

~~An apples~~

A car

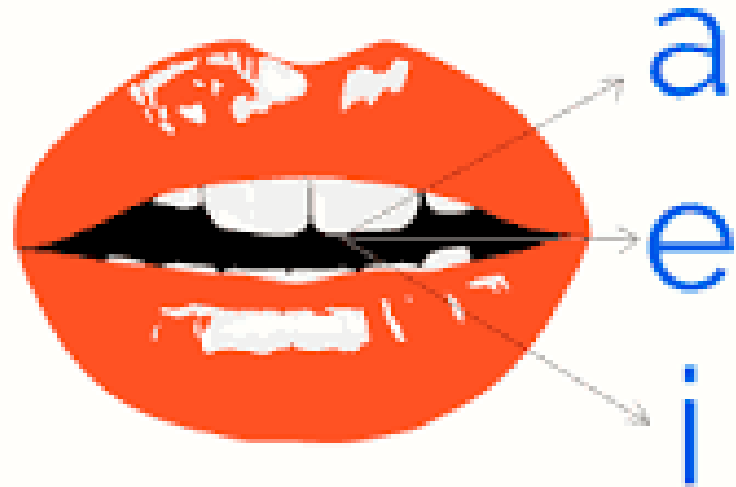
~~An cars~~

An

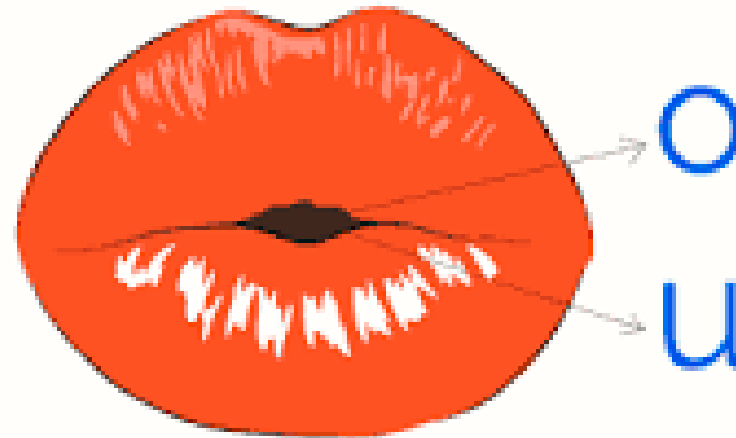
An - Use before a vowel **sound**

a - e - i - o - u **sound**

UNROUNDED



ROUNDED



Articles

a / an - use before a vowel sound

a - e - i - o - u **sound**

An **e**lephant

An **a**pple

An **u**mbrella

An **i**ce-cream

An **o**range

A University

A user

A unit

An **h**our

An **F**BI agent

An **h**onorable man

Articles an

U

An umbrella

U-sound

An umbrella

U

A unicorn

Yu-sound

A unicorn

Articles an

N

A nut

N

An NBA program

N-sound

A nut

En-sound

An NBA program

not using 'a', 'an' or 'the'

we do not use an article before uncountable nouns
(water, sheep, information, furniture, air, music)

- Water is essential for life
- Sheep produce wool
- I need information on that topic
- We have furniture in the living room
- Air is composed of different gases
- He enjoys music

Practice

articles

Compare **a** and **an**:

We use **a** before words which begin with consonants (**b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l ...**):

***a** doctor **a** big car **a** girl*

We also use **a** before **u** when it sounds like the word 'you', and before **eu**:

***u**niversity (sound: 'you'): **a** university*

***a** European city*

We use **an** before words which begin with vowels (**a, e, i, o, u**):

***an** apple **an** interesting film*

We also use **an** before words that begin with a silent **h**. Compare **hour** and **house**:

***hour** (sound: 'our'): **an** hour*

***house**: **a** house*

Compare **a/an** and **the**:

Mary: *I bought **a** CD player and a TV yesterday.*

~ Joe: *Was **the** CD player expensive?*

We usually use **a/an** with a noun to talk about a person or thing for the first time:

***a** CD player*

We use **the** when we talk about the person or thing again:

***the** CD player (= the one that Mary bought)*

There are some special uses of **a/an** and **the**:

- ▶ We use **a/an** with prices, frequency and speeds:

*It costs £2 **a** litre.*

*I drink about three cups of coffee **a** day.*

*You're driving at ninety miles **an** hour!*

- ▶ We use **a/an** before **hundred, thousand, million**:

***a** hundred people **a** thousand days*

- ▶ We use **a/an** for talking about jobs:

*I'm **a** bank manager.*

- ▶ We use **the** when there is only one of something:

*May I turn on **the** TV?*

(There is only one TV in the room.)

*Where's Mary? ~ She's in **the** kitchen.*

(There is only one kitchen in the house.)

- ▶ We use **the** with musical instruments:

*I play **the** guitar. Jane plays **the** violin.*

Now finish the sentences using *a* or *an* and the correct phrase from the box.

- 0 Steven Spielberg is an American director.
- 1 Tokyo is _____
- 2 Heathrow is _____
- 3 The Ganges is _____
- 4 Oxford is _____
- 5 A Mercedes is _____
- 6 Spain is _____

European country
Indian river
~~American director~~
university town
Japanese city
English airport
German car

Put *a*, *an* or *the* in the gaps in these conversations.

0 Joanna: What did you do yesterday evening?

Peter: I watched an interesting programme on TV. Then I had something to eat and I read a book.

Joanna: What was the programme about?

1 Steve: I've bought a jumper. I'm going to give it to Joanna for her birthday.

Cathy: Really? Can I see _____ jumper?

2 Mary: Hello, Carol! What are you doing here?

Carol: I'm waiting to speak to the manager of this shop. I bought _____ TV here yesterday, and it doesn't work.

Mary: Oh, I'm sorry. I bought _____ radio here and it's very good. Was _____ TV expensive?

3 Chris: _____ police car and _____ ambulance stopped in my street this morning.

Jimmy: Do you know why?

Chris: Well, _____ police car stayed for five minutes, and then _____ ambulance left with one of my neighbours inside.

4 Joy: I'm going to have a meal in _____ Japanese restaurant tonight.

Mike: I'm going to _____ disco. Do you want to meet me at _____ disco after you've eaten?

5 David: How long have you lived here?

Philip: Ten years.

David: Really? Have you got _____ flat or _____ house?

Philip: I've got both! _____ flat is in the centre of town. It's very small. _____ house is by the sea.

There are some mistakes in these sentences. Put a tick (✓) if you think the underlined word is correct. Cross it out and change it if you think it's wrong.

- 0 I'm not sure what she does, but I think she's a ✓ _____ doctor.
- 0 I saw the a _____ thousand different things when I was on holiday.
- 1 Be careful! That perfume costs £100 a _____ bottle.
- 2 We must invite him to the party. He plays a _____ piano and a _____ guitar.
- 3 A: What does John do?
B: I'm not sure, but I think he is the _____ teacher in a school.
- 4 She likes to drive at the _____ hundred miles an _____ hour.
- 5 I play the _____ violin in an orchestra. They pay me £50 the _____ day!
- 6 I've got the _____ hundred jobs to do before we leave.
- 7 A: Is my handbag in the living-room?
B: No, it isn't. I saw it in a _____ kitchen.

speaking / pronunciation practice

common consonant clusters

- flower
- flame
- flight
- flag
- flour
- flock
- floor
- flourish
- flavour
- flap

common consonant clusters

- friend
- frame
- fruit
- frog
- French
- Friday
- frozen
- frown
- fry
- fragile

common consonant clusters - "tw" as in "twice"

- twice
- twist
- twin
- twelve
- twenty
- twig
- twitch
- two
- twinkle
- twilight

common consonant clusters - "th" as in "thing"

- thing
- think
- thank
- this
- thorn
- thirst
- thirteen
- thread
- thump
- thud

common consonant clusters - "wh" as in "whale"

- what
- when
- where
- why
- whale
- white
- whistle
- whisk
- whack
- wheel

common consonant clusters

- dream
- drive
- drama
- drink
- dress
- dread
- drill
- drove
- drum
- dragon

common consonant clusters

- dwell
- dwindle
- dwarf

listening practice

Sound of Silence
task

<https://www.alps.academy/learn-english-determiners/>

song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9Dg-g7t2l4>

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reading practice

reading practice

Stephanie's Day in New York City

<https://www.alps.academy/english-reading-practice/>



Reading Text #2

Stephanie's Day in New York City

Stephanie recently enjoyed a day trip to New York City, the vibrant city in the north eastern United States. New York City, also known as the Big Apple, is a bustling urban hub with a rich history and diverse culture. Stephanie explored various attractions during her visit.

[download reading exercise 2 pdf](#)

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other determiners

determiners

- definite and indefinite articles (the, a, an),
- demonstratives (this, that),
- possessive determiners (my, your, their),
- cardinal numerals (one, two),
- quantifiers (many, both),
- distributive determiners (each, every), and
- interrogative determiners (which, what)

role of determiners

Indicating Quantity:

- many books, few people, several options, all students

Expressing Ownership / possession:

- my, your, his, her, its, our and their
- my car, their house

Demonstrate how close:

- this, that, these and those
- is it near or far?

role of determiners

Describing Specifics:

- each, every, and any are members of a group
- every student, any book

Expressing Quantity and Quality:

- some, many, several, few, all, and most

possessive determiners

- **My** car is blue
- **Your** book is on the table
- **His** dog is very friendly
- **Her** house is beautiful
- **Its** fur is soft
- **Our** team won the game
- **Their** cat is missing

demonstrative determiners

single

"**This** book"

- indicating a specific book that is near

"**That** car"

- indicating a specific car that is somewhat farther away

demonstrative determiners

plural

"**These** apples"

- indicating specific apples that are near

"**Those** houses"

- indicating specific houses that are farther away

pre-determiners

Pre-determiners are words or phrases that come before the main determiner in a noun phrase.

- provide additional information to the noun
- all, both, half, many, several, such

pre-determiners

- All the students passed the exam.
- I bought some of the apples.
- Both the cars were red.
- Many people attended the event.
- She ate half the cake.

"all" specifies the quantity of students

"some" indicates a quantity of apples

"both" specifies that all the cars are red

"many" indicates a large number of people

"half" specifies a portion of the cake

Practice

determiners

- 1 Look at these examples:
***This** exercise is difficult.*
***These** are very expensive!*
*What is **that**?*
*Did you eat **those** sandwiches?*

- 2 Here are the singular and plural forms:

SINGULAR		PLURAL
this car	→	these cars
that car	→	those cars

We use **this**, **that**, **these**, **those** with nouns (e.g. **painting**, **apple**):

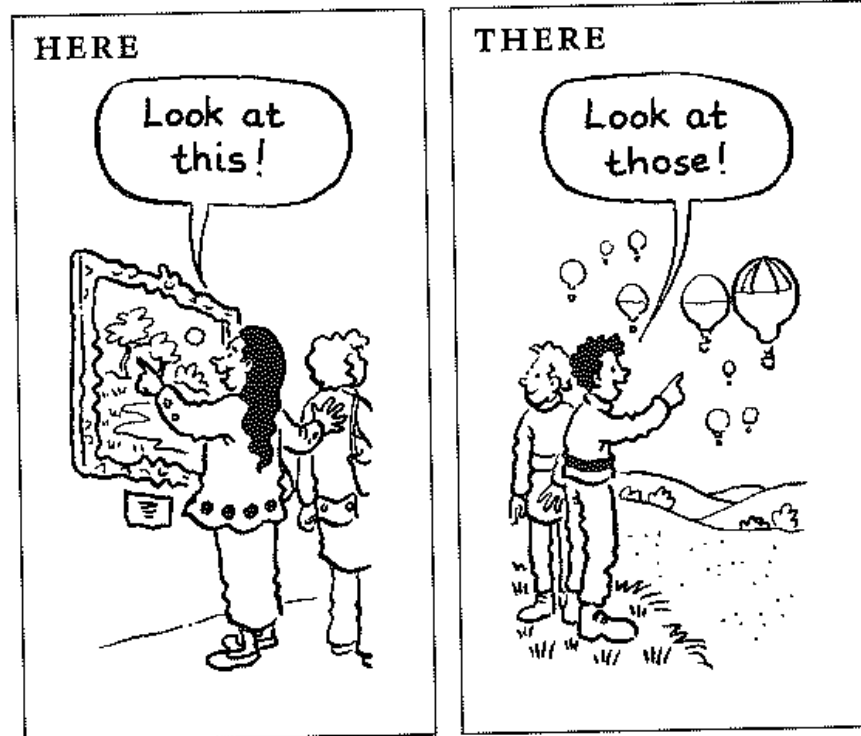
*I like **this** painting.*
***Those** apples are delicious.*

We use **this**, **that**, **these**, **those** without a noun, when the meaning is clear. For example:

A student has just finished his homework, and he says to his friend:
***That** was easy! (**That** = the homework)*

Mike meets his mother at the station. He picks up her suitcases, and he says:
***These** are heavy! (**These** = the cases)*

- 3 We use **this** and **these** for things which are near to us, and **that** and **those** for things which are not near. Look at these pictures:



- 4 Things which are happening now are near to us in time, so we use **this** and **these**:
John (at a concert):
*Some of **these** songs are beautiful.*

Things which are finished are not near to us, so we use **that** or **those**:

John (after leaving the concert):
*Some of **those** songs were beautiful.*

Put *this* or *these* in the gaps.

- 0 I'd like to buy this book, please. How much is it?
- 1 Could you tell me where _____ bus goes, please?
- 2 _____ questions are difficult. Could you help me?
- 3 _____ sandwiches are mine. Yours are on the table.
- 4 _____ is wonderful! I love a hot bath after work.
- 5 Have you got some cheaper pens? _____ are very expensive.

Put *that* or *those* in the gaps.

- 6 Look at _____ clouds. I'm sure it's going to rain.
- 7 Did you enjoy _____ film? I thought it was boring.
- 8 Let's cross the road. _____ taxi is free.
- 9 _____ flats are all very expensive, because they're in the centre of town.
- 10 _____ was beautiful! I was so hungry.

You are at the greengrocer's. Ask how much the fruit and vegetables are.

Use *How much...?* and *these* or *those*.

0 How much are those cucumbers?

0 How much are these oranges?

1 _____

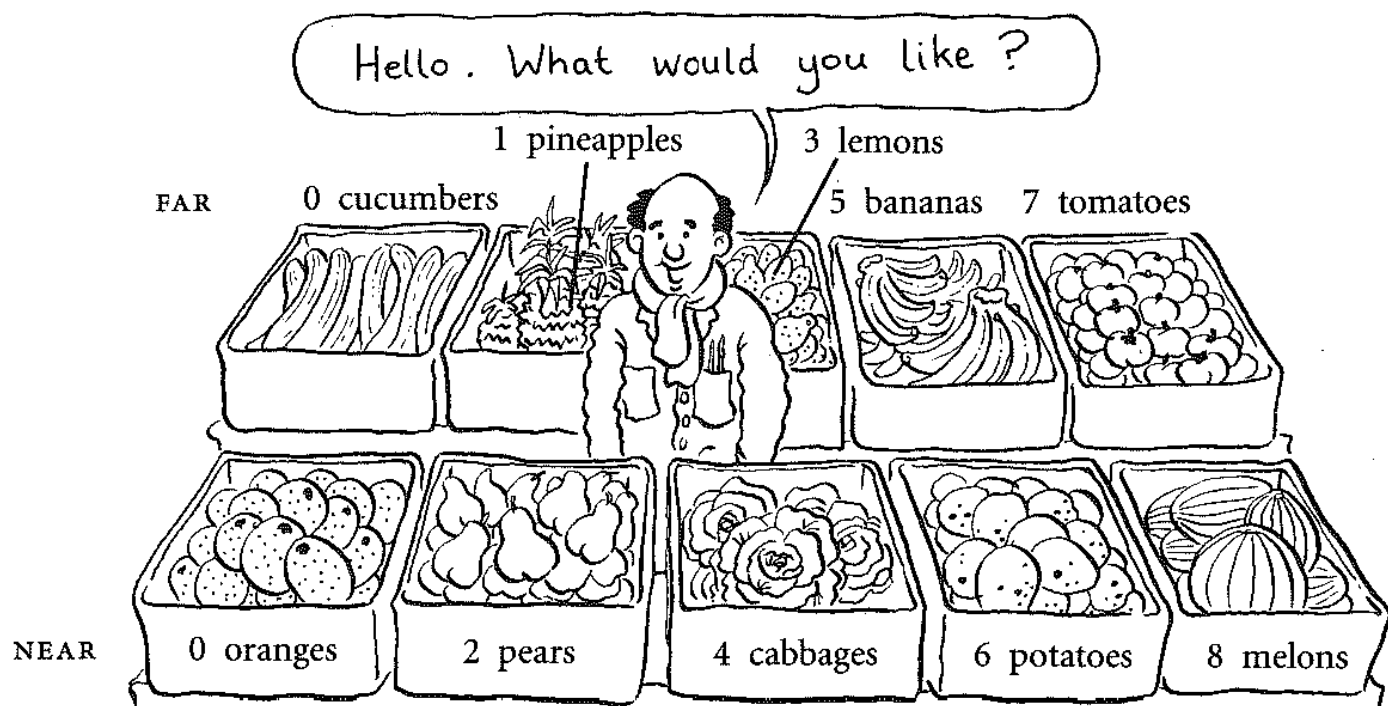
2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____



C Put *this*, *that*, *these* or *those* in the gaps in these dialogues.

A: Are you enjoying your meal?

B: Yes, thanks. ⁰ This _____ fish is excellent.

A: This is my brother, Steve, and ¹ _____ are my sisters, Kate and Joan.

B: Hallo. I've heard a lot about you.

A: We've arrived! ² _____ is our hotel here.

B: Can you see ³ _____ mountain? We're going to ski there tomorrow.

A: ⁴ _____ exams last week were very difficult.

B: Yes. I hope ⁵ _____ exam today is easier.

A: ⁶ _____ is your bed here.

B: But ⁷ _____ beds, there, look more comfortable.

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Thank you!
any questions?