

# Unit 2 Articles and determiners

Determiners are words that quantify (state how much/many of something there is) and refer (show who or what the noun is talking about).

Kinds of determiners:

- Articles (*a, an, the*)
- Quantifiers (*a lot of, a few, some, etc.*)
- Demonstrative adjectives (*this, that, these, those*)
- Determiners of difference (*other, another*)

## Articles

Indefinite article	a	Always used before a singular countable noun starting with a consonant. General or not mentioned before.	I bought <b>a car</b> last month. (We don't know which car.)
	an	Always used before a singular countable noun starting with a vowel or a vowel sound. General or not mentioned before.	You should bring <b>an umbrella</b> . (It doesn't matter which umbrella you bring.) I left <b>an hour</b> ago. ↓ silent <i>h</i>
Definite article	the	Used before a noun which is specific – refers to a particular object/person/group.	<b>The government</b> passes new laws regularly. <b>The moon</b> shone brightly last night.
	(-)	No article (-) is used with plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns to express general meaning.	<b>People</b> are advised to work out daily. <b>Homework</b> should be taken seriously.

When there is an adjective before the noun, the rule is the same. If the adjective begins with a vowel sound, use *an*. If the adjective begins with a consonant sound, use *a*.

Choose **a, an, the** or **no article (-)** to complete each of the following sentences correctly.

1. What \_\_\_\_\_ brilliant idea!
2. Van Gogh was \_\_\_\_\_ artist.
3. Would you please turn off \_\_\_\_\_ lights?
4. We got \_\_\_\_\_ carton of milk from the supermarket. We need \_\_\_\_\_ milk to make dessert.
5. There's \_\_\_\_\_ bug in my juice!
6. The graduate is looking for \_\_\_\_\_ job.
7. I love \_\_\_\_\_ oranges.
8. I will have \_\_\_\_\_ burger and \_\_\_\_\_ fries for lunch.
9. What \_\_\_\_\_ nice dress you are wearing, Salma!
10. I want \_\_\_\_\_ sugar in my tea.

**Use definite article *the*:**

- with the superlative  
**the** best, **the** worst, **the** easiest
- before a musical instrument  
**the** piano, **the** guitar, **the** trumpet
- before an adjective that represents a whole class  
**the** poor, **the** needy, **the** rich, **the** old
- with ordinal numbers  
**the** first, **the** second  
We bought a sofa yesterday. **The** sofa will be delivered in two days.
- the second time you mention a noun (use *the* when you have already mentioned the thing (a noun) you are talking about)  
**the** north, **the** south, **the** east, **the** west of France, **the** middle, **the** end of something
- with directions and geographical points on the globe. For example, 'the North Pole' and 'the equator'  
**the** Burj Khalifa, **the** Statue of Liberty
- before famous buildings and monuments  
**The same** teacher will be teaching us this semester too.
- with *same*  
**the** Burj Al Arab Hotel, **the** Dubai Museum
- with names of hotels/theaters/movie theaters/museums  
**the** Indian Ocean, **the** Pacific Ocean, **the** Canary Islands, **the** Bahamas, **the** Red Sea, **the** Mediterranean, **the** Nile, **the** Mississippi, **the** Alps/Andes/Rockies, **the** Far East, **the** Middle East  
(singular = (-): Everest/Fuji)
- with specific oceans/islands/seas/ivers/canals/mountains (when plural)/regions  
**the** Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, **the** Republic of Ireland, **the** United Arab Emirates
- when referring to republics, states, kingdoms, islands, unions, or emirates  
**the** Bank of Abu Dhabi
- with names with ... of  
**the** Netherlands, **the** Philippines, **the** Canary Islands
- when the name of a country is plural  
**the** sun/moon/Internet
- when referring to something that is unique/one-of-a-kind  
**the** Al Saadis
- when referring to a specific family

**Use no article (-):**

- with names of places (unless when referring to republics, states, kingdoms, islands, unions, or emirates, OR when the name of the country is plural)
 

France, Cairo, Dikka
- with names of specific streets or roads, a person, airports, stations, universities, castles, lakes
 

Hamad lives on Main Street.  
Where is Sheikh Ammar Road?  
Have you visited Times Square in New York?  
I will meet you at Rashidiya Station.  
Dubai International Airport is one of the busiest airports in the world.  
Oxford University is the oldest university in the English-speaking world.  
Where is Edinburgh Castle?  
Lake Victoria was named after Queen Victoria.
- before meals (when referring to a meal in general)  
Note: when referring to a specific meal, use *the*

I do not eat breakfast.  
(breakfast in general, not a specific breakfast)  
**The** dinner was good. (specific)
- with television  
Note: when referring to the television set, use *the*

I watch television.  
Move **the** TV set to the right.  
Turn **the** TV (set – implied) on.
- with *next/last*

I am not going to work next week.  
Did you have a good vacation last summer?
- with days of the week
 

See you on Friday.
- with months of the year
 

My birthday is in June.
- with languages
 

I speak English/French.
- before uncountable nouns when talking about them generally

Information is important to any new student.  
Coffee is bad for our health.
- when referring to sports
 

My son plays tennis.  
Football is popular in the UAE.

Choose *the* or no article (–) to complete each of the following sentences correctly.

11. Muscat is \_\_\_\_ capital of Oman.
12. The Nile River and the Amazon River are \_\_\_\_ longest rivers in the world.
13. Can we have \_\_\_\_ lunch together?
14. I will drive to \_\_\_\_ Ajman, in \_\_\_\_ United Arab Emirates.
15. My family and I went to Lebanon on vacation for \_\_\_\_ first time last year.
16. I watch \_\_\_\_ TV for an hour daily.
17. \_\_\_\_ Great Wall of China is \_\_\_\_ longest structure in the world.
18. Ahmad loves \_\_\_\_ basketball! He thinks Michael Jordan is \_\_\_\_ best basketball player.
19. Jasmin is looking for \_\_\_\_ information about \_\_\_\_ Maldives Islands before she plans her vacation there.
20. I really like \_\_\_\_ pizza, but \_\_\_\_ pizza we had yesterday was horrible!
21. I usually cook \_\_\_\_ same way my mum does. \_\_\_\_ only difference is that I leave a mess behind after I finish.
22. My mum plays \_\_\_\_ piano, while my aunt plays \_\_\_\_ violin.
23. During Ramadan, many people choose to volunteer and help \_\_\_\_ needy.
24. In \_\_\_\_ middle of the stage, an actor fell unconscious.
25. Our apartment is on \_\_\_\_ eleventh floor.
26. My birthday is at \_\_\_\_ end of March.
27. \_\_\_\_ owl can be a symbol of wisdom.
28. In England, they drive on \_\_\_\_ left.
29. \_\_\_\_ Suez Canal connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea.
30. My dream is to visit \_\_\_\_ Eiffel Tower.

## Demonstrative adjectives (*this / that / these / those*)

Demonstrative adjectives show the relative distance between a speaker (subject) and the object(s) being referred to.

To determine which demonstrative adjective to use, you need to know:

- the number of the items – singular or plural
- the location – close or far

Use **this** and **that** with singular countable nouns and uncountable nouns for things which are close.

Use **these** and **those** with plural countable nouns for things which are far.

Form: *this/that/these/those* + noun

**This** test is very easy.

**That** sofa looks beautiful in your living room.

Are **these** your bags? No, my bags are over there.

Whose shoes are **those** on the carpet by the window?

Choose the correct item to complete each sentence.

31. Who took \_\_\_\_\_ books?

- (A) that
- (B) these
- (C) they
- (D) this

32. \_\_\_\_\_ are my papers, not yours.

- (A) This
- (B) That
- (C) These
- (D) There's

33. Can you bring me \_\_\_\_\_ magazines on the shelf by the window, please?

- (A) that
- (B) those
- (C) these
- (D) there

34. \_\_\_\_\_ are my partners, Ahmad and Saad.

- (A) This
- (B) That
- (C) These
- (D) Them

35. \_\_\_\_\_ is my favorite book. Here, take it; you should read it.

- (A) This
- (B) That
- (C) These
- (D) Those

## Other and another

*Other* and *another* refer to something different, remaining, or additional.

Form: placed right before a noun.

I have already eaten, and **other** guests have too.

David found **other** information for his essay.

	Singular	Meaning	Examples
Specific	the other	a specific alternative	Where's <b>the other</b> packet of chips? (I know that there are two packets, and I don't want this one.)
General	another	an alternative/an extra/ different one	Have <b>another</b> piece of cake. (You have already finished one and you are being offered a specific second piece.)
	Plural	Meaning	Examples
Specific	the other	a specific alternative	Do you have <b>the other</b> CDs I lent you?
General	other	alternative/more/extra/ several more in addition to the one(s) already mentioned	There are <b>other</b> shirts you could try. (You don't have to stick with this one. There are other options.)

Choose the correct item to complete each sentence.

36. Saleh returned three of my five CDs today and promised to bring \_\_\_\_\_ on Friday.  
 (A) other  
 (B) the other  
 (C) others  
 (D) the others
37. I'll buy two burgers. You can have one, and I'll have \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (A) others  
 (B) the others  
 (C) another  
 (D) the other
38. Some people prefer studying in their own countries while \_\_\_\_\_ prefer studying abroad.  
 (A) other  
 (B) another  
 (C) the others  
 (D) others
39. Would anybody like \_\_\_\_\_ cup of tea?  
 (A) other  
 (B) another  
 (C) others  
 (D) the others
40. Can you recommend \_\_\_\_\_ movies for me to watch.  
 (A) other  
 (B) another  
 (C) others  
 (D) the others