

Class - VIIIPage - 1Subject - English LanguageChapter - 4 Determiners and
Quantifiers

Good morning students

Today we are going to discuss the topic 'Determiners' as a part of your English Language assignments given in your book titled 'Collins English Grammar and Compositions'.

Students now let us start with the topic 'Determiners'. In your previous classes you have done articles, demonstratives, possessives, distributives, interrogatives etc. These all are kinds of determiners. So we can define determiners as they are used before nouns to state which particular person or thing we are talking about. These words do not describe noun but point them out.

Examples -

- the best boy
- that tree
- some mistake
- my brother
- every student

Students, in these phrases the words 'the', 'that', 'some', 'my', 'every' are determiners.

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Students, now you must be thinking about the difference between adjectives, and determiners. So listen to the examples carefully to find the difference

- difficult problem
- this problem

Students, in the first phrase, the word 'difficult' describes the problem. It tells us what kind of problem we are talking about. So it is an adjective. In the second phrase, the word 'this' does not describe the problem, it determines or specifies the problem. It points out a particular problem and says: this problem. So it is a determiner.

So students keep in mind that, an adjective describes a noun while a determiner determines a noun or points it out.

Kinds of Determiners

Determiners are of six kinds

1. Articles (a, an, the)
2. Demonstratives (this, that, these, those)
3. Possessives (my, our, your, his, her, etc)
4. Distributives (either, neither, each, every)
5. Interrogatives (what, which, whose etc)
6. Quantifiers (some, any, much, many, several etc)

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Students now let us discuss the kinds of determiners in detail.

- Articles

As you have done this topic many times in your previous classes so you might be knowing that articles are used before nouns and adjectives that refer to a particular person, place, animal or thing.

'A', 'an' and 'the' are articles.

- Article 'a' and 'an'

Articles 'a' and 'an' are called indefinite articles.

- Article 'the' is called the definite article.

* Uses of 'a' and 'an'

Students in your junior classes you have learnt about vowels and consonant sound. Article 'a' is used before words that begins with a consonant sound.

Examples -

a cow, a dog, a man,
a table etc.

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- 'An' is used before the words that begin with a vowel sound.

Examples - an egg, an orange, an eagle,
an apple etc.

Students, there are many words begin with a consonant but have a vowel sound, so while using a/an pay attention to the sound -

Examples

- a university (sound of 'yu')
- an hour ('h' is silent)
- an MLA (sound of 'ae')

* Uses of 'the'

Article 'the' is used -

- to refer to a particular person, persons, thing or things.

Example - I bought a watch. The watch is expensive.

- before a singular countable noun that represent the whole class -

Example - The whale is the largest animal.

- before nouns that are one of a kind

Example - The sun is a huge ball of fire.

- before some proper nouns

Example - The Bible, the Sahara desert, the Red Fort etc.

- before adjectives when they are used as plural nouns or represent a class.

e.g. - Help the weak and feed the hungry.

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before superlative and ordinal numbers

Examples

- i. She was the first to reach the finishing line.
- ii. Diamond is the hardest material.

Students in this lesson we have started with the topic determiners and kinds of determiners. We have done with articles. We will continue with kinds of determiners in our next lesson. Now you all are required to revise the content carefully and attempt ex- A given in your book as a part of your home assignment.

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