Determiners

Determiners are words such as **this**, **those**, **my**, **their**, **which**. They are special adjectives that are used before nouns.

The Articles

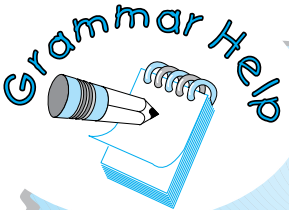
The words **a**, **an** and **the** belong to this group of words called **determiners.**

The words **a** and **an** are called **indefinite articles**. You can use them with singular nouns to talk about any single person or thing.

Do you wear **a** uniform to school?

Can you hear **a** bird singing ?

This is **a** picture of **an** elephant.
Rudy is reading **a** book.
Mom bought me **a** new dress today.
You will need **an** umbrella when you go out.
She eats **an** apple **a** day.



The article **an** is usually used before words beginning with **vowels**. The article **a** is used before words beginning with **consonants**.

The word **the** is called the **definite article**. Use **the** before a noun when you are talking about a certain person or thing.

The telephone is ringing.

Tom has won **the** race.

Where's **the** cat?
I think she is under **the** bed.

Granny is sitting in **the** garden.
The street is very busy today.
The sky is getting dark.

The ice is melting.

You also use **the** before a noun when there is only **one**. For example:

the sun
the moon
the sky
the front door of my house

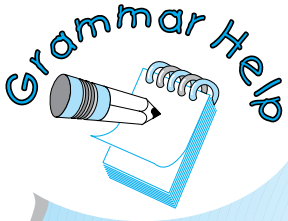
Demonstrative Determiners

The words **this**, **that**, **these** and **those** are determiners. They are used to tell which thing or person you mean. These words are called **demonstrative determiners**, or **demonstrative adjectives**.

James lives in **this** house.

I am keeping **these** books.
I am selling **those** books.

This ice cream is delicious.
How much is t**hat** racket?
What is **that** animal?
Bring me **that** ball.
Would you like **these** apples?



You use **this** and **these** to point to people or things **near** you.

You use **that** and **those** to point to people or things that are **farther** from you.

You use **this** and **that** before singular nouns.
You use **these** and **those** before plural nouns.

Here's a table to help you remember the rules:

Singular	Plural
this	these
that	those

Interrogative Determiners

Use the words **what**, **which** and **whose** before nouns to ask about people or things. These words are called **interrogative determiners** or **interrrogative adjectives**.

What size do you wear?

What kind of bird is that?

What time is it?

What color is her hair?

What kind of clothes do you like to wear?

Which school do you go to?

Which doll is your favorite?

Which road leads to the zoo?

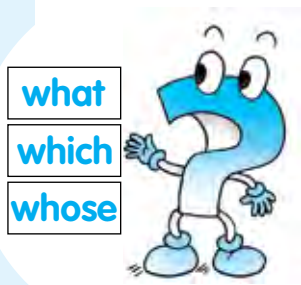
Which runner is the winner?

Do you know **which** girl won the prize?

Whose footprints are these?

Whose baby is this?

Whose dog was barking in the middle of the night?



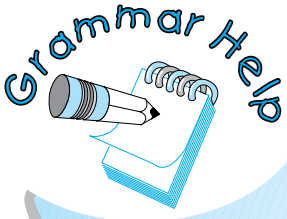
Possessive Determiners

The words **my**, **your**, **his**, **her**, **its**, **our**, **their** are called **possessive determiners** or **posessive adjectives**. Use these words before nouns to say who something belongs to.

I lent Margaret **my** guitar.

The dentist asked **his** patient to open **her** mouth.

Is this **your** house?
Robert, **your** handwriting is difficult to read.
Michael is showing **his** tortoise to **his** friends.
My sister lost **her** way in the city.
The lion is chasing **its** prey.



Here is a table to help you remember the **possessive determiners**.

	Singular	Plural
First person	my	our
Second person	your	your
Third person	his	their
	her	their
	its	their

Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with *a, an* or *the*.

1 _____ owl
2 _____ rocket
3 _____ apron
4 _____ sun
5 _____ page
6 _____ computer
7 _____ moon
8 _____ Missouri River
9 _____ mango
10 _____ animal
11 _____ eagle
12 _____ baby

Exercise 2

Write *a, an* or *the* in the blanks to complete the sentences.

1 There is _____ rainbow in _____ sky.
2 Who is _____ man outside _____ gate?
3 _____ doctor gave Jane _____ injection.
4 Paul opened _____ door to let _____ dog in.
5 Mark is _____ only child in _____ family.
6 What's _____ largest animal in _____ world?
7 There's _____ nest in _____ tree.
8 Sue is writing _____ letter to her grandfather.
9 Jack has _____ brother and _____ sister.
10 We reached _____ top of _____ hill in two hours.

Exercise 3

Fill in the blanks with the correct *demonstrative adjectives*.

1 Come and look at _____ insects.

2 Stop _____ man!

3 I was in fifth grade last year. I am in sixth grade _____ year.

4 Bring _____ chairs here.

5 _____ ice cream is delicious.

6 Can you see _____ stars in the sky?

Exercise 4

Are the underlined words *demonstrative adjectives* or *demonstrative pronouns*? Write *DA* (for demonstrative adjectives) or *DP* (for demonstrative pronouns) in the blanks.

1 <u>This</u> house has five bedrooms. _____

2 Who is <u>that</u> man? _____

3 <u>This</u> is our school. _____

4 <u>These</u> are wild animals. _____

5 <u>That</u> is right. _____

6 What's <u>that</u> noise? _____

7 <u>These</u> books are Jane's. _____

8 <u>Those</u> books belong to me. _____

9 <u>These</u> are donkeys. _____

10 <u>Those</u> are horses. _____

Exercise 5

Choose the correct *possessive adjectives* from the box to fill in the blanks.

my	his	your	her
its	our	their	

1 Is this Jane's dog? Yes, this is _____ dog.

2 The dog is chasing _____ own tail.

3 Peter, is _____ father at home?

4 Rudy is showing _____ stamps to Ali.

5 I am going to _____ aunt's house this evening.

6 We always keep _____ classroom clean.

7 Children, have you all finished _____ homework?

8 The children are proud of _____ school.

Exercise 6

Choose the correct *interrogative adjectives* from the box to fill in the blanks.

what	which	whose

1 _____ kind of animal is that?

2 _____ runner is the winner?

3 _____ is the matter?

4 _____ desk is this?

5 _____ handphone is ringing?

6 _____ is your name?

7 _____ twin is taller?

8 _____ hand is holding the pebble?