When placed in front of a noun, a **determiner** limits the noun's reference.

Consider the highlighted words in the following sentence:

> *Miranda could not decipher the text message displayed on her cell phone.*

The words **the** and **her** are determiners because they refer to **specific things**, the nouns **message** and **phone**.

**Types of Determiners**

**Determiners** are classified into several types. They include **definite and indefinite articles**, **demonstrative adjectives**, and **posessive adjectives**.

**Definite and Indefinite Articles**

Definite and indefinite articles describe persons or things. Use the definite article **the** to describe **specific persons or things**.

1) **The chef** specialised in French cuisine.
2) **The refrigerators** are stored in a warehouse.

Use the indefinite articles **a** or **an** to describe a **person or thing in general**.

1) **An hour** passed without interruption.
2) **A bicycle** was stolen last night.

**Demonstrative Adjectives**

Demonstrative adjectives describe how **near** or how **distant** a person or thing is to the speaker. The distance between the person or thing and the speaker may be either physical or psychological.

There are **four demonstrative adjectives**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>this (near)</td>
<td>these (near)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>that (distant)</td>
<td>those (distant)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consider the highlighted words in the following sentences:

1) **This student** deserves recognition for his extensive research.
   The demonstrative adjective **this** refers to a person, the noun **student**, who is near the speaker.

2) Please do not cross **that** line.
   The demonstrative adjective **that** refers to a thing, the noun **line**, that is further away from the speaker.
Possessive Adjectives

Possessive adjectives describe who possesses a person or thing.

There are eight possessive adjectives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>my</td>
<td>our</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>your</td>
<td>your</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>his</td>
<td>their</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>her</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>its</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following sentences show how possessive adjectives can replace possessive nouns as adjectives:

1) **Sheila’s** brother will not be joining us for dinner. (possessive noun as adjective)
   **Her** brother will not be joining us for dinner. (possessive adjective)

2) The team listened to **the president and manager’s** recommendations. (possessive nouns as adjectives)
   The team followed **their** recommendations. (possessive adjective)