

ADJECTIVES

Part 2: Determiners

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 possessive 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**:

Singular	Plural
this (near)	these (near)
that (distant)	those (distant)

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.

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Possessive Adjectives

Possessive adjectives describe **who possesses** a person or thing.

There are **eight possessive adjectives**:

Singular	Plural
my	our
your	your
his	their
her	
its	

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**)