

# Determiners: The Rules

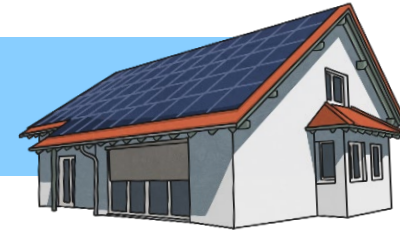
**Determiners** are words that **come before a noun or noun phrase**.

There are **two types** of determiners - **specific** and **general**.  
They **introduce the noun** and give the **reader important information about it**.



We have bought **a** new house.

**My** house is miles from anywhere.



**WARNING!**

Keep away from **the** derelict house.

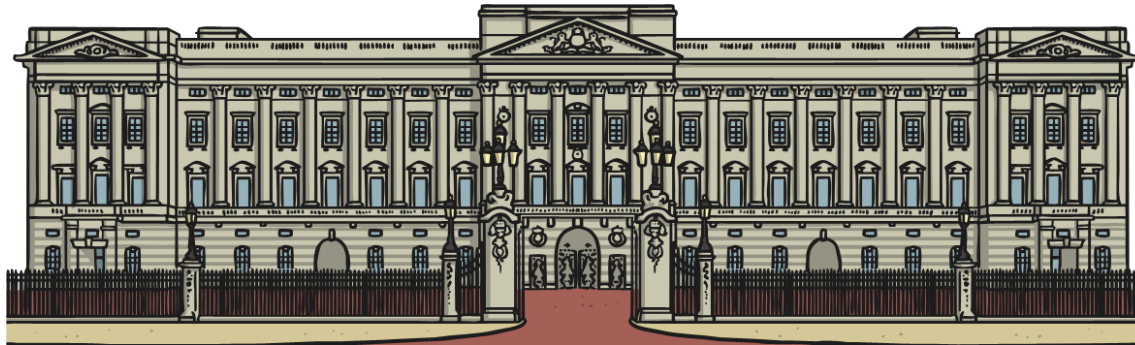
# Specific Determiners (The Definite Article): The Rules

**Specific determiners** refer to a **specific noun** when the reader knows **exactly which noun you are referring to**.

The **most frequently used** specific determiner is '**the**'- which is often referred to as '**the definite article**'.

**The** King lives in Buckingham Palace.

We use '**the**'  
because we are  
being specific about  
which King.



# Demonstrative Determiners: The Rules

**Demonstrative determiners** are also specific.  
They relate to the **location** of the noun that you are describing.

**that**



I love **that** shirt.



'**that**' indicates that the shirt is nearby.

**those**



**Those** children are often mean to me.



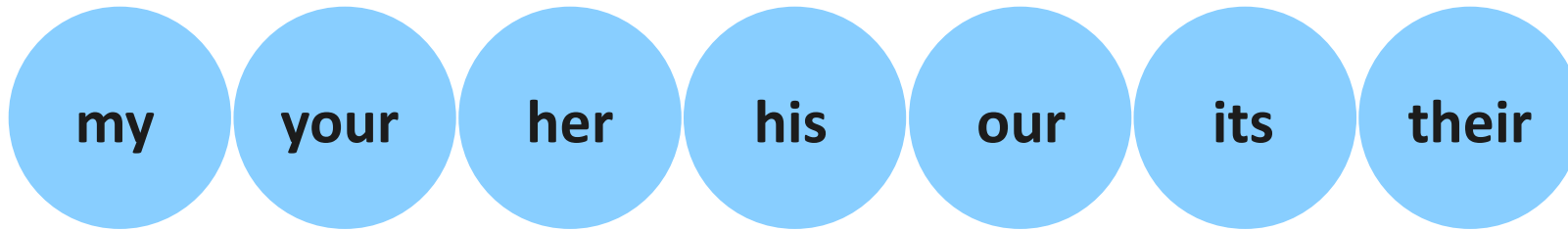
'**Those**' is used to be specific about which children.

**this**

**these**

# Possessive Determiners: The Rules

**Possessive determiners** are also specific.  
They relate to the **ownership** of the noun that you are describing.



She is wearing **her** carnival outfit.



'**her**' indicates the ownership of the outfit.



Hands off...it is **my** bun.



'**my**' is used to indicate the owner of the bun.

# Interrogative Determiners: The Rules

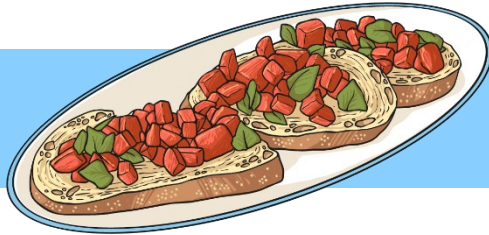
**Interrogative determiners** are used before a noun or noun phrase to **ask questions**. We use '**which**' or '**what**' as determiners to ask a question about a **specific** group of people or things.

**what**

**What** books do you like to read?

**which**

**Which** restaurant did you go to?



# General Determiners (The Indefinite Article): The Rules

**General determiners don't refer to a specific noun.**

The **most frequently used** general determiners are 'a' or 'an'- which are often referred to as '**the indefinite article**'.

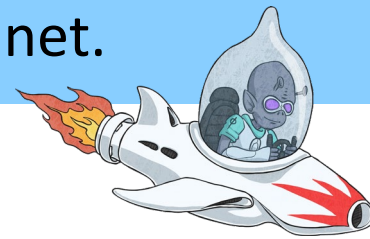
**A** robot is made of metal.

We use 'a' if we are talking generally about robots. If we were being specific about one particular robot then we would use the definite article '**the**'.



**An** alien landed on our planet.

We use 'an' if the noun it precedes starts with a vowel (a, e, i, o or u) to make it easier to say.



# General Determiners – Quantifiers: The Rules

**Quantifiers** are also **general determiners**. They tell us the **quantity** (or amount) of a noun. **Number words** are also quantifiers.

much

A little

A bit

all

enough

more

none

some

any

Plenty  
of

Lots of

several

A few

many

# Determiners: The Tricky Bits

These possessive pronouns are often confused with determiners too:

mine

his

hers

yours

ours

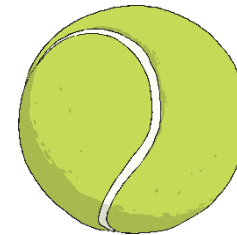
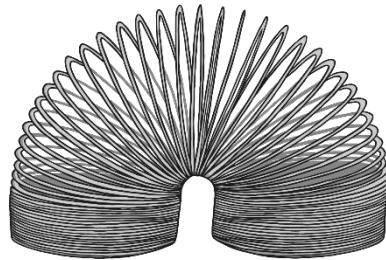
theirs

Is that toy **yours**?

The ball is **hers**.



Neither are determiners because they don't come before a noun.





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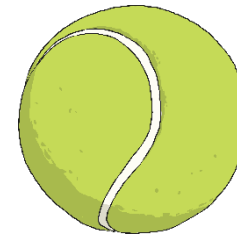
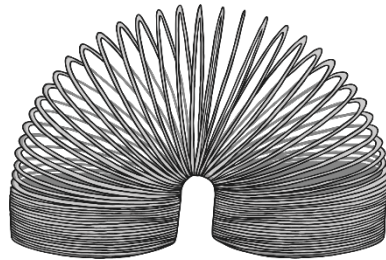
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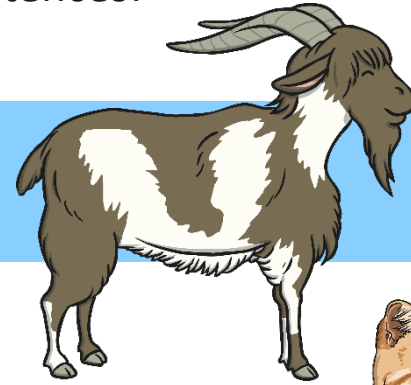
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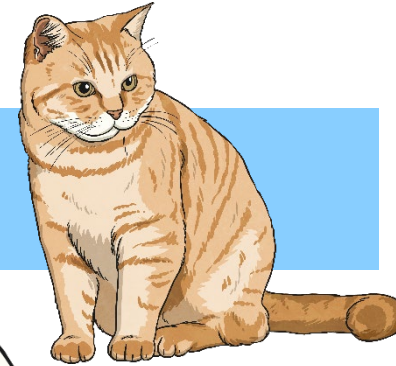
# Determiners: Quiz Question

1. Find the determiners in the following sentences:

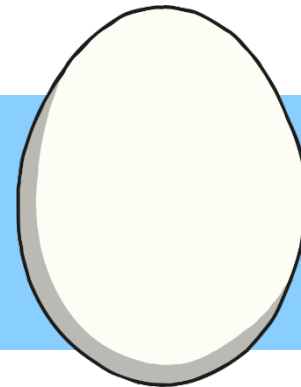
a) The goats hid from a troll.



b) Where is that cat?



c) Helena had three boiled eggs  
on her plate at breakfast time.



# Determiners: Quiz Question

2. Decide where the **quantifiers** are:

a) We have got some chickens in our garden.



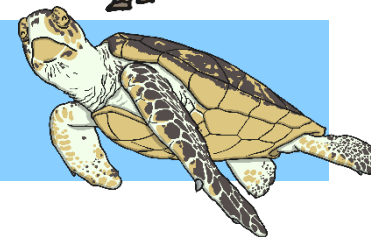
b) After lunch, I had a yoghurt.



c) Santa has many reindeer.



d) There are very few sea turtles left in the wild.



# Determiners: Quiz Question

3. Chose which **indefinite article**, **a** or **an**, should be used to fill the gap in each sentence.

a) Cautiously, Gary approached \_\_\_\_ eagle that had damaged its wing.

b) King Charles III has got \_\_\_\_ son called Prince William.

c) Being kind is \_\_\_\_ very important character trait.