



CLASS IX & X
ENGLISH GRAMMAR
PART I
LESSON 12
DETERMINERS

NOTES

A **Determiner** is a word that determines something. In grammar, Determiners fix, define or determine the Nouns that follow them. They determine what a Noun refers to and in what way. Determiners always precede the Nouns they determine but they have different positions to one another. As a matter of fact, the **Determiners may be regarded as a sub-class of Adjectives**. To understand the role of determiners in grammar, we have to see which Determiners and Nouns can occur together.

The most important group of Determiners is the one that includes the **Articles (a, an, the)**, the **Demonstratives (this, that etc.)**, and the **Possessives (my, your, his etc.)**. They are generally regarded as **the Central Determiners**.

Note: There are more than forty words which function as Determiners. A list of some of these words is given below:

1. **Articles:** a, an, the
2. **Interrogative Adjectives:** which, what, whose
3. **Possessive Adjectives:** my, our, your, his, her, its, their
4. **Demonstrative Adjectives:** this that, these, those
5. **Distributive Adjectives:** each, every, either, neither, both
6. **Adjectives of Quantity and Number:** one, two, third, fourth, some, any, many, no, few, a few, the few, several, little, a little, the little, much, all etc.



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The following table will show the types of Nouns and Determiners that are used before them:

Determiners	Type of Nouns	Examples
A, an, each, every, either, neither, another, one	Singular Countable Nouns	A boy, either girl, another person, one boy etc.
Both, few, a few, the few, many, several, various, these, those, two, third etc.	Plural Countable Nouns	Both boys, a few girls, many men, several students, these women, two men etc.
Less, little, a little, the little, much, a good deal of, a great deal of etc.	Uncountable Nouns	Less sugar, a little water, a good deal of money, much time etc.
All, lots of, a lot of, enough, more, most, some, plenty of, such, etc	Plural Countable Nouns And Uncountable Nouns	All water/men, a lot of books/money, some books/money etc
Any, no, only, other, own, same, the, Possessive Adjectives like my, your, our etc.	General, that is with any singular, plural and uncountable Nouns	Any money/girl, my bag/wealth, the air/man etc.

Use of Some Common Determiners:

- i. **This, that, these, those:** They point to the objects denoted by the nouns following them. 'This' and 'that' go with singular nouns and 'these' and 'those' with plural nouns. 'This' and 'these' point to objects which are near and 'that' and 'those' point to distant objects.

Examples:

- a. *This* boy broke my glasses.
b. *Those* hills look beautiful.

- ii. **My, our, your, her, his, its, their:** These are Possessive forms of Pronouns and can be used with Singular, Plural, Countable and Uncountable Nouns. They are said not to be Determiners in the strict sense of the term.

Examples:

- a. *My* tea is cold.
b. *Their* car is new.
c. *Your* dogs are tame.

- iii. **One, two, three, fifth, seventh etc.:** They are used with Singular and Plural Nouns. They are used to indicate number or position.

Examples:

- a. The work cannot be done by *one* man only.
b. The *first* man in the queue is my father.



iv. **Each, every, both, all:**

(a) 'Each' is used in the context of a comparatively limited number.

Example: *Each* student was given a book.

(b) 'Every' means the same as 'all' but the units are considered separately instead of a whole.

Example: *Every* boy can take a ball.

Note: The phrase 'each and every' emphasizes both the individuality and commonality.
Example: Each and every citizen should respect his motherland.

(c) 'Both' means the same as 'all' but it is only applied to two persons or things.

Example: *Both* hands are tied.

(d) 'All' is used with Countable plurals and Uncountable Nouns.

Examples:

a. *All* men must stand in a line.

b. *All* water is not safe to drink.

v. **No, any, some:** 'No' and 'any' are used in Negative and Interrogative sentences. 'Some' is generally used in Assertive Sentences.

Examples:

a. There is *no* sugar in the jar.

b. Is there *any* milk left?

c. There is *some* tea in the pot.

vi. **More, most, less, least, fewer, fewest:**

(a) 'More' and 'most' express different degrees (the same as 'much' and 'many')

Examples: *most* people, *more* money, *much* water, *many* students etc.

(b) 'Less' and 'least' are used with Uncountable Nouns and used to express different degrees.

Examples: *Less* sugar, the *least* experience etc.

(c) 'Few', 'fewer' and 'fewest': are used before Plural countable Nouns.

Examples: *fewer* students, the *fewest* examples etc.

vii. **Enough:** It is used before Plural Countable Nouns and Uncountable Nouns. It may precede or follow the Nouns.

Examples:

a. I have *enough* food.

b. He has *enough* clothes.



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viii. **Either, neither:** 'Either' indicates each of two and 'neither' has a negative meaning corresponding to 'both' or 'either'.

Examples:

a. People were gathering on *either* side of the road.

b. *Neither* party came to the police station.



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