

Lesson 17

Determiners

One way to define determiners is to say that determiners are everything in the subject that is not a number, a describer, or a main word. This definition is pretty close, but not completely true. Actually determiners are words that tell us that a main word is coming. They may signal whether the main word is **familiar** to us. They may **demonstrate which one**, tell us about "**possession**", or tell us in general about the **quantity**.

Look at these examples: I have marked each determiner Dt.
What do the determiners signal?

How many?	Are we familiar?	Whose? (possession)	Which one?
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Are we familiar? Dt Dt
A man ran out of the store. The man wore a red jacket.

Which one? Dt Dt
This coffee is good. That coffee is terrible.

Whose? Dt
His brother is a teacher.

How many? Dt
Some students always come to class on time.

Here is a list of common determiners and what they are called in many grammar classes.

Common Determiners

Articles	Demonstrative pronouns	Possessives	Quantity words.
a	this	my	many
an	that	your	some
the	these	his	each
	those	her	every
		its	a few
		our	all
		their	a lot of
		Maria's	lots of

Note: you will see that **determiners**, like **describers** and **numbers**, appear in places other than the subject box. However, I am only going to identify determiners in the subject box in this lesson.

Lesson 17 Exercise 1

Directions: In the sentences below, identify the xwords and verbs and everything in the subject box. **Note: The answers identify the words in EVERY noun box. Where can noun boxes go?**

- 1 Dt # Ds * Vp Ds *
The five best teachers received huge raises.
- 2 Dt * X Dt Ds *
Our party was a great success
- 3 Dt # * X
Maria's three children are all sick.
- 4 Dt Ds * X Dt Ds Ds *
A good education is a very valuable asset.
- 5 Dt * = Dt * X Ving
The cat and the dog were fighting.
- 6 * Vs # * * Dt *
He smokes three packs of cigarettes a day.
- 7 Dt Ds * X Vpp Dt Ds *
John's oldest brother was injured in a car accident.
- 8 * Vo Dt *
I have a headache
- 9 Dt # Ds * X Ds * Ds Ds *
Sally's three favorite desserts are chocolate cake, vanilla ice cream,
= Ds *
and strawberry shortcake.
- 10 Dt Ds Ds Ds * X Vpp Dt * # *
The IRT local subway train was stuck in the tunnel for three hours.

Noun boxes can be SUBJECTS, OBJECTS (What?) or after a preposition.

Word order - again.

Have you noticed that **determiners** usually come first in the subject box?
Circle the correct answer below.

The correct order of words in the subject box is usually....

- a. # * Ds Dt
- b. Dt # Ds *
- c. Dt * Ds #

Lesson 17 Exercise 2

Directions: Scrambled subjects. You've heard of scrambled eggs. Here are some scrambled subjects. Write these sentence again, putting the words in the subject box in the correct order.

1

movie that terrible should not have cost \$10.50!
That terrible movie should not have cost \$10.50!

2

the students new six must work very hard.
The six new students must work very hard.

3

best his subjects two are music and biology.
His two best subjects are music and biology.

4

glasses the wine smashed onto the floor.
The wine glasses smashed onto the floor.

5

flowers spring some make me sneeze.
Some spring flowers make me sneeze.