

# Chapter 1

## Determiners



“The unique potential and duty of a media company is to help its audiences connect to the issues that define our time.”

Rupert Murdoch

In accordance with what Rupert Murdoch has said, it's true that news, be it through newspapers, radio or television channels, holds an important position in our lives. As you sip your morning tea and flip through the pages of a national daily, you are indeed in a rendezvous<sup>1</sup> with the journalists who serve the news to you.

Have you ever wondered how a journalist manages to bring you authentic and latest news? Initially, it is like going uphill, involving a lot of frustration, scramble and struggle until one succeeds in hitting upon a great story on an issue of good mass appeal, but thereafter, it's a smooth ride. All journalists are actually storytellers. The stories they tell us are nothing but articles, news items or features inspired by significant events, issues, themes and profiles of people. No story can lure<sup>2</sup> the masses effectively unless the characters, places and issues involved in it are vividly defined by giving each one a unique identity. The storyline or the events described should be so detailed and lively that the readers should virtually see them happening in front of them. That's where 'Determiners' come to our aid. So, before we go ahead with a special feature on determiners, let us do a quick readiness check and gauge how well-acquainted you are with them.



Rupert Murdoch  
Australian  
global media mogul



Dr Prannoy Roy  
Icon of Indian electronic media

### Journalists

- ❖ Serve as the chief purveyors<sup>3</sup> of information and opinion in contemporary society
- ❖ Are unbiased and honest towards the authenticity of the event
- ❖ Know where to draw a line while dealing with sensitive issues and confidential matters of national interest
- ❖ Take risks to delve into the depth of the matter
- ❖ Travel extensively as per the requirement of their work

1. rendezvous: a meeting at an agreed time and place  
2. lure: attract  
3. purveyor: supplier or provider

## What you already know... >>>

### Determined to Determine the Determiners

Recognise the determiners in the given grid and cross out the ones that are not determiners. You need to time yourself during the activity!

A	The	Me	My	Hers	What	Your
It	His	Her	Some	Any	Mine	An
Something	Two	This	These	Those	Not	So
All	Try	Few	Much	He	Always	Fastest
Many	Merely	More	Our	Rudely	None	Their
Each	Every	Little	Small	Which	Never	Third

### Remember!

Determiners are words placed before a noun to clarify what the noun refers to. In case there is an adjective before the noun, the determiner is placed before the adjective. For example, 'my black gown', 'a cunning fox'.



Before covering an event, a journalist must remember 'Get it first, but first get it right.' In other words, you need to be first and fast but accurate. You should also be rational<sup>1</sup> while analysing various aspects of a situation. This will come gradually with knowledge and experience, but right now here's more on determiners to add to your language accuracy, an essential skill to stay in this field!

## What you need to know... >>>

Determiners include a large group of words and are of various types. The examples given below will help you understand their types.

**Articles:** a, an, the

Being a good journalist is an essential criterion to be a good anchor.

**Possessives:** my, your, his, her, our, their, whose, etc.

Dr Prannoy Roy, whose wife is presently the Director of NDTV, is my favourite anchor.



1. **rational:** able to think sensibly or logically

**Demonstratives:** this, that, these, those, which, etc.  
Which news channel is your favourite?

**Numbers:** one, two, three, twenty, forty, ninety-five, etc.

He died when he was ninety-five years old.

**Ordinals:** first, second, third, last, next, etc.  
 There is no last word in journalism.

**Distributives:** all, none, both, half, either, neither, each, every, etc.

All his works were based on realistic situations.

All demonstratives and possessives are not necessarily determiners. They can be pronouns too, depending on their usage.

This book is very interesting. (Determiner)

This is a very interesting book. (Pronoun)



Mark Tully, Prannoy Roy, Rajdeep Sardesai, Vinod Dua, Nidhi Kulpati, Rupali Tiwari, Srinivasan Jain, Punya Prasun Bajpai and Shireen Bhan—what do all of them have in common? Well, all of them have achieved infinite success in the realm<sup>1</sup> of anchoring, by sheer<sup>2</sup> hard work, knowledge and presence of mind. Anchoring is a fundamental domain of journalism. But, mind you, being an anchor isn't easy! Anchoring is not just reading out the news. There are times when you have to handle highly serious and sensitive breaking news without showing a streak of emotion. While doing this, you have to be alert, accurate, precise and quick, yet calm inside.



Would you like to experience the tricks of the trade?

### What you need to do... >>>

#### Talk Show

- Get into groups of six. Choose a famous personality who has been a source of inspiration for you. He/she could be from any field such as politics, business, sports, entertainment, and so forth.
- Research together exhaustively to gather sufficient knowledge about the person.
- Select a student from your group to portray the personality selected and be the guest of the Talk Show.



1. **realm:** a field or domain of activity or interest  
 2. **sheer:** nothing but absolute

# Determiners

- Select another student to be the anchor and interview the chosen personality.
- The remaining four students can be the audience and take turns in asking questions to make the interview interactive and interesting. Meanwhile, students of the other groups can keep a record of the incorrect usage of determiners.
- Similarly, all groups can take turns to put up their shows on different personalities.
- Once the Talk Show is over, discuss the incorrect usage of determiners.



As the new world is proving the adage<sup>1</sup> 'the pen/camera is mightier than the sword', journalism is becoming more and more challenging. Simple reporting of events is not enough in the current scenario. The need of the hour is specialisation and professionalism in reporting. And, for better writeups, correct use of determiners is inevitable<sup>2</sup>.

## What you need to know... >>>

More than one determiner may be placed before a noun to indicate the different references the noun has. Depending on the relative position of determiners before nouns, we categorise them into three classes: pre-determiners, central determiners and post-determiners. You will find all three classes of determiners in the sentence given below:

Both	my	previous	novels	were set in pre-independence India.
Pre-determiner	Central determiner	Post-determiner	Noun	Predicate

It is, however, rare that a sentence has all three classes of determiners. Let's look at the examples of each class of determiners separately.

### Pre-determiners

Pre-determiners indicate the quantity of the noun that follows.

twice my pocket money      half the cost      all my attention

Pre-determiners do not normally co-occur. Therefore, it would be wrong to say 'all half my pocket money'.

### Central Determiners

The definite article 'the' and the indefinite articles 'a' and 'an' are the most common central determiners.

all the novels      half a chapter      half an hour

1. **adage:** a proverb or short statement expressing a general truth  
 2. **inevitable:** unavoidable, a must



All the magazines

Possessives are also used as central determiners.

all his/her stories

all your energy

all their books

Demonstratives, too, act as central determiners.

both these drawings

all that money

four times this amount

## Post-determiners

The quantifiers, and the cardinal and ordinal numerals fall in this category.

a few characters

my next novel

your previous book

Unlike pre-determiners, post-determiners can co-occur.

my first two projects

several other people



Have you heard of ‘The Scholastic News Kids Press Corps’? As the name suggests, it is a group of about eighty children between the age 9–14 years, who report on current, entertainment and sports events from across the United States for Scholastic News Classroom Magazine and Scholastic Website. Doesn’t it impress you? Well, if you want to impress others by a similar activity, here’s an opportunity for you to set up your own Kids Press right here in class!

## What you need to do... >>>

### Kids Press

- Make a weekly journal for your school. Collectively decide a name for it.
- Decide upon the various features of the journal. Accordingly, divide the class into groups. Constitute a group that will act as the Editorial Board.
- Write a report as per the assigned/chosen column in the journal and pass it to the Editorial Board for final processing of the journal.
- Build a glossary of determiners in your journal, categorising them as discussed earlier.

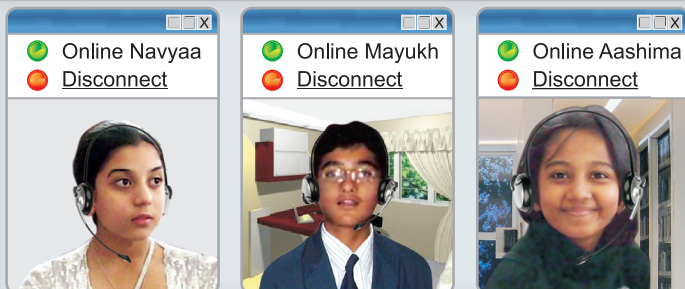
## What you know now... >>>

- Determiner is a fairly large group of words comprising articles, possessives, demonstratives, numbers, ordinals and distributives.
- All demonstratives and possessives are not necessarily determiners. They can also be pronouns, depending on their usage.
- Depending on their relative positions, determiners can be categorised as pre-determiners, central determiners and post-determiners.



## What you need to remember... >>>

http://blog.themillenniumschoools.com



# Welcome to educhat.com

## Web screen for 'Determiners'

Navyaa: Hi! How was **your** lawn tennis class?

Mayukh: Great...what about **your** Shakespeare lessons?

Navyaa: Truly, Shakespeare is...Kalidas of England.

Mayukh: **The** Kalidas of England. Mind **your** 'Determiners' girl!

Navyaa: Oh yes, thanks for correcting me. In **this** sentence, Kalidas is no more a proper noun.

Well, I've already read **a few** plays of Shakespeare. **Few** more to read and I'm done!

Mayukh: I'm sure **the few** that you have read, are worth **many**!

Aashima: Hi guys!What's this? '**few**', '**a few**', '**the few**', etc. etc. ... aren't they the same?

Mayukh: Not at all! '**Few**' means '**not many**' and '**a few**' means '**some at least**'.

Navyaa: And, '**the few**' means '**whatever there is...!**'

Aashima: I never knew that. Anyway, enough material to sleep over, I guess!! Goodnight guys!

Mayukh: Coming back to **our** dear Shakespeare. Have you read **his** 'Twelfth Night'?

Navyaa: Yeah sure, but right now, it's midnight and I'm feeling sleepy too!

Mayukh: Okay...have **a sweet** 'Midsummer Night's Dream'.

Navyaa: Please...can we leave Shakespeare alone now.

Mayukh: Okay...Ciao...goodnight.

Navyaa: Goodnight Mayukh...and see you tomorrow!

**B I U** [Icons: Bold, Italic, Underline, Eraser, Speaker, Save, Mail, Print]

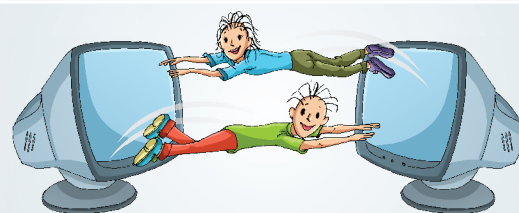
Arial

12 pt

Catch you later at

<http://blog.themillenniumschoools.com>

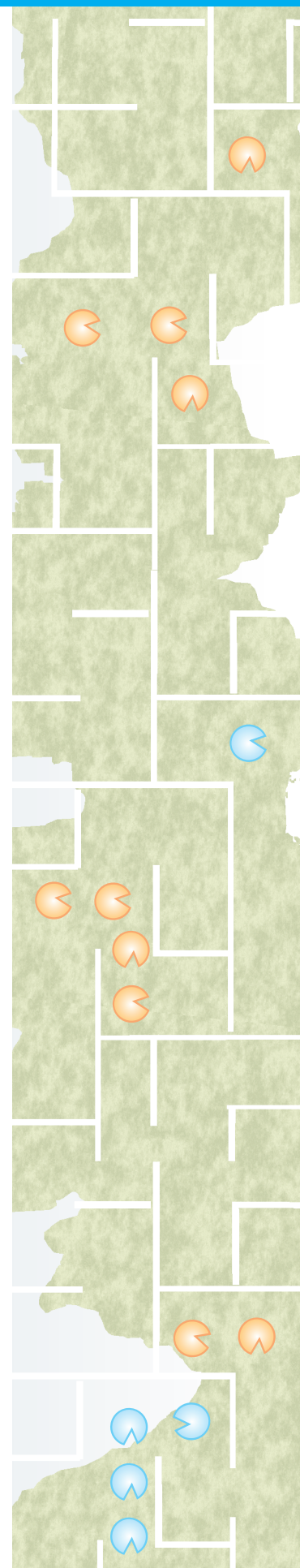
Send



## Time to workout... >>>

1. In each of the following sentences, indicate whether the highlighted word is a determiner or not. Write 'yes' or 'no' to indicate your answer.
  - a. **One** is my lucky number.
  - b. The book consists of **three** main characters.
  - c. They have invited me to the **annual** book fair.
  - d. He was the **last** to arrive.
  - e. These books are **very** inspiring.
  - f. Is **this** version the latest?
  - g. Can I borrow **a few** books from you?
  - h. This film of **yours** is terrific.
  - i. **These** are really good!
  - j. You don't look **ninety-nine**.
2. Insert one or more determiners in the given sentences at appropriate places so that the sentences make complete sense.
  - a. Guide must be prepared to expect unexpected.
  - b. I have visited place times.
  - c. City is also called the pink city.
  - d. I always keep money in wallet for emergencies.
  - e. I had mountaineering experience at age of ten.
  - f. There are a shops that sell curios.
  - g. It's so boring here. Nothing ever happens in place like this.
  - h. This is attempt to cheat me!
  - i. They cannot have more strawberries; I need to make jam.
  - j. She expects me to clean the house in half an hour, is an impossible task.
  - k. It was wonderful. We had best holiday of lives.
  - l. Don't just stand there with hands in pockets.
3. Compose a passage from the outline given below. Underline the determiners used in the passage.
 

Swami and Friends...story...fictional town of Malgudi...ten-year-old ...Swaminathan...boy full of innocence, wonder and mischief... Studying at British-established Albert Mission School...school stresses English literature and value of education.



## Determiners

4. The secretary of the Health Club of your school has listed some healthy food habits for you. Can you help her edit her work? Underline the errors and write the correct forms next to each in brackets. One is done for you.

You are all aware of an (the) importance of good health.

Here are few tips on how to eat well and keep fit.

- Drink much milk every day. Milk is the rich source of calcium and every other nutrients.
- Fruits are also essential. They are good for a health. Eat little amount of fruits every day.
- Green vegetables and salads must be part of yours daily diet.
- Don't eat a number of fried foods. They are tasty but harmful.
- Be careful not to include some aerated drinks in your diet. Like fried foods, they are also tasty but harmful.

If you follow all those tips, you will remain healthy and fit.

5. The following report appeared in the *Times of India*, dated 7 March 2009. Read it carefully. Pick out all the determiners, and classify them on the basis of the categories that you have studied.

### GAJRAJ NOW HAS A WOMAN MAHOUT

S.Sudarshan



**IN HIGH PLACES:** Squadron Leader Veena Saharan in the cockpit of the IL-76, along with Flight Lieutenant Monica Lakshkar.

In a news that would make the women rejoice ahead of the International Women's Day, the Indian Air Force has inducted its first woman to fly its gigantic transport plane IL-76. What's more, she is posted in Nagpur. IL-76, nicknamed Gajraj, is the largest flying machine in IAF inventory. Though women officers have been flying transport aircraft such as the Avros and AN-32s so far, none had qualified for flying the Gajraj that weighs almost 200 tonnes when fully loaded. It is used for strategic airlifting and can even accommodate a main battle tank in its innards. Squadron Leader Veena Saharan has become the first woman pilot to fly this aircraft. She was recently inducted into the IAF's 44 Squadron which has its IL-76 base in Nagpur.

Shishir Arya | TNN

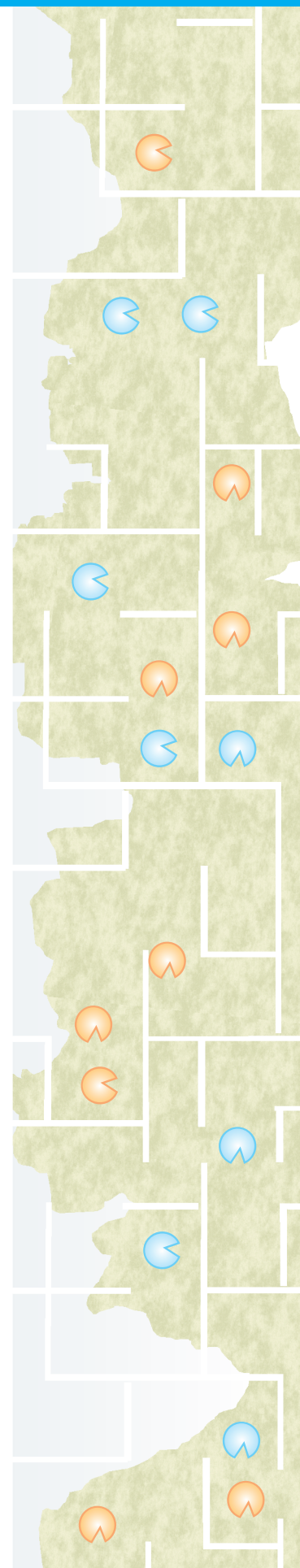
6. Read the following extract from a travel book. While copying the passage, Raju did not bother to write the determiners, as he considered them unnecessary. Correct the passage by inserting suitable determiners.

The main town on the island is very small and does not have \_\_\_\_\_ important buildings. The islanders do not have \_\_\_\_\_ money, and they have \_\_\_\_\_ contact with the outside world. There is not much chance of \_\_\_\_\_ place attracting large numbers of tourists. \_\_\_\_\_ roads are not very good either. There are lots of bicycles but not \_\_\_\_\_ motor vehicles. And there are hardly \_\_\_\_\_ of the modern facilities \_\_\_\_\_ visitors would expect. There are a \_\_\_\_\_ shops that sell curios. But the rich culture of the island makes up for all \_\_\_\_\_ things.

7. From the table given below, combine at least two types of determiners with a suitable noun and frame sentences in turns. Ensure that you do not repeat the combination already suggested by your peers. Can you suggest any combination where determiners from all the three categories are used?

Pre-determiners	Central determiners	Post-determiners	The combinations I thought...
Half	A	Two	
All	An	Fourth	
Both	The	Next	
Twice	My	Previous	
Double	Yours	Subsequent	
Ten times	His	Last	
	Her	Many	
	Our	Several	
	Their	Next two	
	This	Several other	
	That	Many more	
	These	Second last	

8. Imagine that you have been adjudged the “Best Young Journalist 2009”. It’s the most memorable day of your life as you receive the award from the President of India. As you spend the rest of your day answering calls and cherishing the fruits of your endeavour, you decide to pen down your experience in a diary. Can you do it without the help of determiners? Certainly not. So, don’t forget to underline and categorise the determiners you use when you write your diary.



## For the Apprentice... >>>

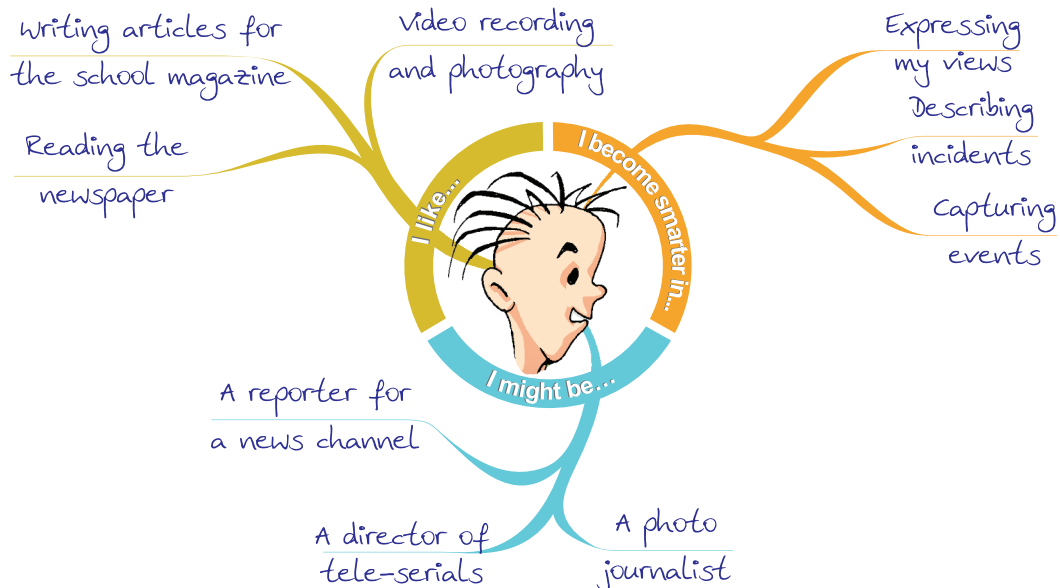
### A Virtual Tour

Imagine you are a travel journalist or a travelogue writer. One of your programmes is scheduled to be aired on the Discovery channel next week. Choose an Indian tourist spot and explore the place with your viewers through an MS PowerPoint presentation. Research well to equip yourself for the task because you need to add your comments, experiences and brief narratives about the place to highlight its importance.

In the process, you will realise the importance of good communication skills and accuracy of language for a journalist. In fact, they are equally important for people in any other vocation wishing to live their dreams.



## What you can aspire to be... >>>



### Explore...

#### Learn more about determiners at:

[http://www.englishclub.com/grammar/adjectives-determiners\\_quiz.htm](http://www.englishclub.com/grammar/adjectives-determiners_quiz.htm)  
[http://www.english-the-easy-way.com/Determiners/Determiners\\_Page.htm](http://www.english-the-easy-way.com/Determiners/Determiners_Page.htm)

#### Know more about journalism at:

<http://www.sean.co.uk/a/journalism/careers.shtm>  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journalism>

**Tool Kit...** Dictionary, highlighter pens, microphone, camera

