

## Determiners

You've already learned about one group of determiners, articles, but there are a few others. Determiners are function words that are said to "mark" nouns. Therefore, in a noun phrase, you know a noun is coming when you see a determiner.

Here is a list of the different groups of determiners<sup>1</sup>. This section will focus on a few of the most common.

<b>Definite/Indefinite articles:</b>	the, a, an
<b>Demonstratives:</b>	this, that, these, those
<b>Possessive Pronouns:</b>	my, your, his, her, its, our, their
<b>Quantifiers :</b>	a few, a little, much, many, a lot of, most, some, any, enough
<b>Numbers:</b>	one, ten, thirty
<b>Distributives:</b>	all, both, half, either, neither, each, every
<b>Difference words:</b>	other/others, another
<b>Pre-determiners:</b>	such, what, rather, quite

### Demonstratives:

**Demonstratives** show where a specific object, event, or person is in relation to the speaker. They refer to closeness or distance.

**You can use demonstratives in two ways, to modify a noun or to replace a noun.**<sup>2</sup>

1. If it *modifies* a noun, it is called a **demonstrative determiner**.

**If you are talking about something close to you, use *this* (with a singular noun) and *these* (with a plural noun)**

This is my book.                      *The singular noun, book, is close to the speaker.*

Are these books yours?            *The books [plural] are close to the speaker.*

**If you are talking about something farther away, use 'that' and 'those'.**

That is my book.                      *You can see the book, but it is not close to you.*

Those are my books.                *You can see the books [plural], but they are not close to you.*

**Distance is not just physical distance. We can use 'this', 'that', 'these', and 'those' to show distance in time.**

I like this class.                      *You are in the class.*

I liked that class.                    *You are not in the class anymore. It is far away in time.*

2. If it *replaces* a noun, it is called a **demonstrative pronoun**. We can use 'this', 'that', 'these', and 'those' as pronouns.

***This*** is my professor.                ***Dr. Ferris*** is my professor. (***This*** replaces *Dr. Ferris*, and she is nearby)

***That*** is my professor.                ***That*** replaces *Dr. Ferris*, and she is far away from the speaker

### ACTIVITY: USE THE CORRECT DEMONSTRATIVE DETERMINER/PRONOUN

1. (the a book in your hand) How could you buy something like \_\_\_\_\_ ?
2. (a bowl of chips on your lap) \_\_\_\_\_ chips are delicious!
3. (During a long walk) I should have worn \_\_\_\_\_ shoes I bought in Greece last year; \_\_\_\_\_ have never been comfortable.
4. Could you bring me \_\_\_\_\_ book I left in the garden?
5. (From the marriage vows) To have and to hold from \_\_\_\_\_ day forward.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ef.edu/english-resources/english-grammar/determiners/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theenglishspace.com/grammar/demonstratives.html>

6. I hate \_\_\_\_\_ books which tell you: " \_\_\_\_\_ is what you have to do to become rich."
7. (About a picture hanging on the wall) \_\_\_\_\_ are my children.
8. (About a picture you've just taken from your wallet) \_\_\_\_\_ is my wife.

### Quantifiers:

**Quantifiers** tell us how many (countable nouns) or how much (non-countable nouns). Selecting the correct quantifier depends on, much like with many other quantifiers, whether or not the noun is count or noncount, and therefore, plural or singular.<sup>3</sup>

The following quantifiers will work with **count nouns**:

**many courses**   **a few books**   **few classes**   **several professors**   **a couple of students**   **none of the tests**

The following quantifiers will work with **non-count nouns**:

**not much/no homework**   **a little grammar**   **little vocabulary**   **a bit of advice**   **a good/great deal of studying**

The following quantifiers will work with both **count and non-count nouns**

<b>all of the</b> courses/homework	<b>some</b> books/grammar	<b>most of the</b> classes/vocabulary
<b>enough</b> students/advice	<b>a lot of</b> tests/studying	<b>lots of</b> classes/grammar
<b>plenty of</b> students/homework	<b>a lack of</b> professors/vocabulary	

\*\* *In formal academic writing, it is usually better to use many and much rather than phrases such as a lot of, lots of and plenty of.*

**There is an important difference between "a little" and "little" (used with non-count words) and between "a few" and "few" (used with count words).**

If Maria has **a little** experience teaching that means that although Maria is not an expert, she does have some experience and that experience might be enough. If Maria has **little** experience teaching that means that she doesn't have enough experience.

If Dino owns a few books about grammar that means that he has some books — not a lot of books, but probably enough for our purposes. If Dino owns **few** grammar books, he doesn't have enough.

**Unless combined with of, the quantifier much is reserved for questions and negative statements:**

**Much of** the homework is on Canvas.      **How much** homework is on Canvas? Not much

**Note that the quantifier most of the must include the definite article the when it modifies a specific noun, whether it's a count or a non-count noun:**

**Most of the** instructors at UCD have a doctorate.      **Most of the** water in this experiment has evaporated.

**With a general plural noun, the "of the" is dropped:**

**Most** colleges have their own plagiarism policy.      **Most** students apply to several colleges.

### ACTIVITY: USE THE CORRECT QUANTIFIER

Choose the correct determiner from the box below to complete each sentences. There may be more than one answer.

<sup>3</sup> Adapted from: <http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/determiners/determiners.htm>

**a few   a little   a lot   a lot of the   most   plenty   many   much   several   some**

1. I'm having \_\_\_\_\_ of trouble passing my physics course.
2. I have had \_\_\_\_\_ grammar mistakes on my essays.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ information proved to be outdated.
4. We're close to the project deadline, but there is still \_\_\_\_\_ time left before the due date.
5. Although there are many international students at UC Davis, only \_\_\_\_\_ will choose to remain in the state after graduation.
6. We were able to add a few students from the waitlist, but \_\_\_\_\_ of had to be turned away.
7. Even though most students passed the course, \_\_\_\_\_ of them have to repeat.
8. Although it does not happen often, there were \_\_\_\_\_ students who plagiarized on the exam.
9. I think he spent too \_\_\_\_\_ time studying last night because he looks exhausted.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ students who eat at the Dining Commons say they don't like the food.

### Another, Other, Others:

**A simple rule to help you remember the difference between *another* and *other* is:**<sup>4</sup>

another + singular noun          other + plural noun          others (a pronoun to replace other + plural noun)

**Another** means: one more, an additional, an extra OR a different one; an alternative one

He has enrolled in **another** writing course.

Would you like **another** soda?

Don't worry about the game. We can go to **another** home game this season.

I think you should take **another** instructor this time.

**Another + One:** Another can be placed before "one" when the meaning is clear from the text before it.

A: You can borrow more of these books if you like.

B: Ok, I'll take **another one**. (one more book)

**Another as a pronoun:** Sometimes another is used as a pronoun.

A: You can borrow more of these books if you like.

B: Ok, I'll take another. (one more book)

**Another + number + plural noun:** Another can be used before a plural noun when there is a number before that noun or before phrases such as a couple of, a few etc.

In **another 2 years** I will graduate.

He was given **another couple of months** to complete his dissertation.

**OTHER:** Other goes before plural *countable nouns*, *uncountable nouns* or a *pronoun*.

**Other + Plural Countable Noun:** Other can be followed by a plural countable noun.

We have other electives for students.

I have invited some other people to our club meeting.

Some classes are large lectures though other classes can be smaller.

I can't help study for this test all weekend because I have other things to do.

**Others as a pronoun:** Others replaces "other ones" or "other + plural noun".

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<sup>4</sup> Adapted from: <http://www.grammar.cl/english/another-other-others.htm>

**\*\* Only others can be used as a pronoun and not other.**

I don't like these samples. Let's ask for others. (others = other samples)  
Some of the presenters arrived on Monday. Others arrived Tuesday.

**Others - the others:** Often "(the) others" refers to "(the) other people".

He has no interest in helping others. ( other people)

What are the others doing tonight? (you know these other people; the rest of the group)

<b>ACTIVITY: USE THE OTHER, OTHERS, ANOTHER CORRECTLY</b>
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**Decide whether or not to use *other*, *others*, or *another* in the sentences below.**

1. I would like \_\_\_\_\_ chance to submit my homework correctly.
2. Would you like \_\_\_\_\_ copy of the syllabus?
3. I think we should make \_\_\_\_\_ plans just in case Anastasia doesn't show up.
4. We need some more chairs. I'll take these and you take the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. You take one pile of books, and I'll take the \_\_\_\_\_ one.
6. This bus might be slow, but \_\_\_\_\_ are much faster.
7. I'm going to drop this class and take \_\_\_\_\_ one.
8. She had her laptop in one hand and her textbook in the \_\_\_\_\_.