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| **Grammar Masters: Teacher’s Notes**  **Topic: Determiners** |
| A determiner specifies a noun as known or unknown, and it goes before any modifiers (e.g. adjectives or other nouns).  Examples of determiners are:   * articles (*the*, *a* or *an*) * demonstratives (e.g. *this*, *those*) * possessives (e.g. *my*, *your*) * quantifiers (e.g. *some*, *every*).   **Articles**  ***A/an*** and ***the*** are articles. They are a type of determiner and they go before a noun.  *A/an* before a noun shows that what is referred to is not already known to the speaker, listener, writer and/or reader (it is the indefinite article), e.g.  *Do you have* ***a*** *car?*  *Do you live in* ***a*** *house?*  *No, actually, I live in* ***an*** *apartment.* **An is used where the noun starts with a vowel or vowel sound**  ***The*** before a noun shows that what is referred to is already known to the speaker, listener, writer and/or reader (it is the definite article):  *Where did we park* ***the*** *car? (The speaker and the listener know which car is being referred to.)*  *We had to paint* ***the*** *apartment before we sold it. (The speaker and the listener know which apartment is being referred to.)*  *The* makes a noun specific.  **Demonstratives**  These kinds of determiners show where an object, event, or person is in relation to the speaker. The closeness/proximity described can be physical or psychological. Examples  | **Near the speaker** | **Far from the speaker** | | --- | --- | | Is **this** Adam’s house? | Is **that** Adam’s house over there? | | **This** is a nice treat! | **That** must have been a nice treat for you. |   **Possessives**  These kinds of determiners show what or who the noun belongs to. For example:  *my, your, his, her, its, our, their, x’s* (possessive *’s*)  **Quantifiers**  These kinds of determiners show how much of something there is, or how many.  For example:  ***Five*** people were arrested during a riot in London today.  There are ***some*** documents here for you. (some means a non-specific, small number or quantity of something.)  Do you have ***enough*** milk to make the pudding. (enough means a quantity that is sufficient or adequate for something).  **Modifiers**  Sometimes a modifier is used to make the determiner stronger or more specific.  For example:  ***Nearly every*** shop in the village was closed for the bank holiday.  They were able to give me ***very little*** information about the illness. |

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