Lesson 15 Determiners To the Teacher

This lesson will take a while. Determiners are a problem for most students. There is no real pattern. The concepts are in our heads or in our experience and they change with location and situation. At the same time that we're studying determiners we have to review singular, plural, and non-count nouns.

There are two invaluable references. Links to both should be on this page.

- **Determiners** is revised from Linda Kunz. There are more than articles! Scroll down to see a list in more or less alphabetical order. The examples given use common collocations from COCA.
- When to use "The" is adapted from Sue Livingston's book, Working Text.
- In addition, Jay's Determiners, is a diagram of which determiners go with singular, plural, and uncountable nouns. I had hoped it would look simple. Ha.

Other activities:

Matching determiners to nouns
See link Which Determiner-pen,
pens, rice Make three cards
with pictures on them to
represent singular, plural, and
uncountable nouns (I do PEN,
PENS, RICE) Then make a card
for each article, each
demonstrative, some
possessives, and some
quantifiers (include each and
every). I do the types of
determiners in different colors,
but that's me. Lay them out on

the	a (pen), an (eraser), this, that another each, every	singular (pen)	
the other	Ø these, those, other	plural (pens)	
the other's my/my brother's your/yourteacher's his / Tom's	all (of the), a great deal of, some (of the) not a lot of, none of the (quite) a few, few		
her / Maria's its / the store's our/our school's their/their class's	this, that other all (of the), a great deal of, some (of the) not a lot of, none of the not much, a little, little	uncountable (rice)	

the table and let small groups organize them and figure out how they overlap. Note: this picture has more than one *this, that, all*, etc. The students won't. How will they organize the cards?

Pooling your non-count nouns: Groups of 3 or so have 10 minutes to write down as many non-count nouns as they can think of. Winners can get a small prize—like forgiveness on one tardy. Then the best typist enters ALL of the words into a program like WordItOut.

(duplicated words will be bigger) Make it pretty and post it or send it to each student.

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honey anger

salad applause on bravery
aggression traffic
beat dust very little chicken money transportation
satisfaction love paper at juice rain money transportation
satisfaction guilt
pork tea a little mail wisdom nature
bumor a little business time different entertainment
belp garbage powder ice wather water wine peace sugar mutton
land curiosity fabric weather research beef dealing assistance tennis beauty faith different mall water homework lam pride exercise space travel
sunshine a lot of design
cheese progress meat hair grass
cotton attention equipment
freedom
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Geography: It's nice to do an activity with common places in your area that use or don't use "the". I made a little online quiz for the NYC area and realized how tricky it is. We have "the Bronx" but "the Brooklyn" and "the Central Park" but "the Village."

Some tips to pass on to students:

- Determiners come first in the noun box
- Every singular noun needs a determiner!
- There aren't many quantifiers for singular nouns: each, every, one
- "The" and Possessives don't care if the noun is plural, singular, or uncountable: Juan's pens, Juan's pen, Juan's rice
- You can often replace "the" or "a" with "our:" our finest music
- "A lot of" doesn't care if the noun is plural or uncountable: a lot of rice, a lot of pens

Lesson 15 itself has articles and a few each of demonstratives, quantifiers, and possessives.

Vocabulary

The vocabulary here focuses on Exercise 1 The topic is salad - because there are a lot of uncountable nouns in the food world.

Total vocabulary in all of the exercises (including instructions): 321 words. Grammar terms include the four types of determiners: articles, demonstratives, possessives, and quantifiers.

Nouns used as	singular	plural nouns	uncountable	Proper names
Describers	nouns		nouns	
lemon (juice) olive (oil) salad (dressing) restaurant (menu) restaurant (owner) Caesar (salad) grocery (store)	bottle egg emperor ingredient lemon olive	people anchovies croutons pieces cooks fish menus	bread food juice oil **salad dressing	Julius Caesar Caesar Cardini
J. 1111, 7 (1111)		**salads		
*origins used as				
describers:				
Romaine (lettuce)				
Parmesan (cheese)				
Roman (emperor)				

^{*}Origins used as describers: In the Describers lesson, students will see that "material or origin" is one type of describer. It usually comes right before the main noun.

The delicious fresh green Romaine lettuce....

<u>Determiner/Noun combinations</u>

ARTICLES

 the best salad, the world, the home, the salad dressing, the lettuce, the magic ingredient

^{**}salad is used as both a countable noun, (Salads are good for you.) and an uncountable noun

TO THE TEACHER

- a restaurant owner, a Caesar Salad dressing, a Caesar salad, a bottle
- an egg

DEMONSTRATIVES (this, that, these, those)

• these little salty fish

POSSESSIVES

- your own dressing
- Cardini's salad

QUANTIFIERS

- some people
- many grocery stores, many cooks
- a lot of restaurant menus
- lots of people

NO DETERMINER NECESSARY

- Caesar Salad
- lettuce
- cheese
- croutons
- little pieces
- the salad
- lemon juice
- dried bread
- fresh Parmesan (cheese)