

TO THE TEACHER

Lesson 15 Determiners  
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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

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

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.



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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.

<b>Nouns used as Describers</b>	<b>singular nouns</b>	<b>plural nouns</b>	<b>uncountable nouns</b>	<b>Proper names</b>
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 **salads	bread food juice oil **salad dressing	Julius Caesar Caesar Cardini
<b>*origins used as describers:</b> 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....*

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

Determiner/Noun combinations

ARTICLES

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

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- 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)