Common determiners[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=English_determiners&action=edit&section=2)]

The following is a rough classification of determiners used in English, including both words and phrases:

* *Definite determiners*, which imply that the referent of the resulting noun phrase is defined specifically:
	+ The definite [article](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_articles) *the*.
	+ The [demonstratives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demonstrative_adjective) *this* and *that*, with respective plural forms *these* and *those*.
	+ Possessives, including those corresponding to [pronouns](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_personal_pronouns) – *my*, *your*, *his*, *her*, *its*, *our*, *their*, *whose* – and the [Saxon genitives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saxon_genitive) formed from other nouns, pronouns and noun phrases (*one's*, *everybody's*, *Mary's*, *a boy's*, *the man we saw yesterday's*). These can be made more emphatic with the addition of *own*or *very own*.
	+ [Interrogatives](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interrogative) *which*, *what* (these can be followed by *-ever* for emphasis).
	+ [Relative](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relative_clause) determiners: *which* (quite formal and archaic, as in *He acquired two dogs and three cats, which animals were then...*); also *whichever* and *whatever*(which are of the type that form clauses with no antecedent: *I'll take whatever money they've got*).
* *Indefinite determiners*:
	+ The indefinite [article](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_articles) *a* or *an* (the latter is used when followed by a [vowel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vowel) sound).
	+ The word *some*, pronounced [s(ə)m] (see [Weak and strong forms in English](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weak_and_strong_forms_in_English)), used as an equivalent of the indefinite article with plural and non-count nouns (a [partitive](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partitive%22%20%5Co%20%22Partitive)).
	+ The strong form of *some*, pronounced [sʌm], as in *Some people prefer dry wine*; this can also be used with singular count nouns (*There's some man at the door*). For words such as *certain* and *other* see below.
	+ The word *any*, often used in negative and interrogative contexts in place of the article-equivalent *some* (and sometimes also with singular count nouns). It can also be used to express alternative (see below).
* *Quantifiers*, which [quantify](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantification_%28linguistics%29) a noun:
	+ Basic words indicating a large or small quantity: *much/many*, *little/few*, and their [comparative](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparative) and [superlative](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Superlative) forms *more*, *most*, *less/fewer*, *least/fewest*. Where two forms are given, the first is used with non-count nouns and the second with [count nouns](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Count_noun) (although in colloquial English *less* and *least* are frequently also used with count nouns). The basic forms can be modified with adverbs, especially *very*, *too* and *so* (and *not* can also be added). Note that unmodified *much* is quite rarely used in affirmative statements in colloquial English.
	+ Phrases expressing similar meanings to the above: *a lot of*, *lots of*, *plenty of*, *a great deal of*, *tons of*, etc. Many such phrases can alternatively be analyzed as nouns followed by a preposition, but their treatment as phrasal determiners is supported by the fact that the resulting noun phrase takes the [number](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grammatical_number) of the following noun, not the noun in the phrase (*a lot of people* would take a plural verb, even though *lot* is singular).
	+ Words and phrases expressing some unspecified or probably quite small amount: *a few/a little* (learners often confuse these with *few/little*), *several*, *a couple of*, *a bit of*, *a number of* etc.
	+ [Cardinal numbers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_numerals): *zero* (quite rare as determiner), *one*, *two*, etc. In some analyses these may not be treated as determiners.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_determiners#cite_note-1)
	+ Other phrases expressing precise quantity: *a pair of*, *five litres of*, etc.
	+ Words and phrases expressing multiples or fractions: *half*, *half of*, *double*, *twice*, *three times*, *twice as much*, etc. Those like *double* and *half* (without *of*) are generally used in combination with definite determiners (see [Combinations of determiners](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_determiners#Combinations_of_determiners) below).
	+ Words expressing maximum, sufficient or zero quantity: *all*, *both*, *enough*, *sufficient*, *no*.
	+ Note that many of these quantifiers can be modified by adverbs and adverbial phrases such as *almost*, *over*, *more than*, *less than*, when the meaning is appropriate.
* Words that [enumerate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enumeration) over a group or class, or indicate alternatives:
	+ *each*, *every* (note that *every* can be modified by adverbs such as *almost* and *practically*, whereas *each* generally cannot. However, also note *every other*, which refers to each second member in a series.)
	+ *any* (as in *any dream will do*; see also under *indefinite determiners* above), *either*, *neither*
* *Personal determiners*:
	+ The words *you* and *we*/*us*, in phrases like *we teachers; you guys* can be analysed as determiners.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_determiners#cite_note-CGEL_p.374-2)[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_determiners#cite_note-3)

Examples:

"As all we teachers know . . ."

"Us girls must stick together. " (informal)

These examples can be contrasted with a similar but different use of *pronouns* in an appositional construction, where the use of other pronouns is also permitted but the pronouns *cannot* be preceded by the (pre-) determiner "all".[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_determiners#cite_note-CGEL_p.374-2)

Examples:

"I/we, the undersigned, . . . , "

"We, the undersigned, . . . , "

but *not*

* All we, the undersigned, . . ."
* Other cases:
	+ The words *such* and exclamative *what* (these are followed by an indefinite article when used with a singular noun, as in *such a treat*, *what a disaster!*)
	+ Noun phrases used as determiners, such as *this colour*, *what size* and *how many* (as in *I like this colour furniture; What size shoes do you take?; How many candles are there?)*
	+ Words such as *same*, *other*, *certain*, *different*, *only*, which serve a determining function, but are grammatically more likely to be classed simply as adjectives, in that they generally require another determiner to complete the phrase (although they still come before other adjectives). Note that the indefinite article in combination with *other* is written as the single word *another*.

Consult [Wiktionary](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/) for more information on the meanings and usage of the words listed here. It also contains a fairly complete [list](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Category%3AEnglish_determiners) of words that can be classed as determiners in English.