Name _____ Date _____

Spot the determiner

A determiner comes before a noun, and before any adjectives.

1 Learn



A **determiner** is a little word that goes in front of a noun. It tells you **which one**, **whose** or **how many**: **the** dog, **my** dog, **two** dogs.



Worked example: Ava found some shiny shells.

1. Find the **noun** (the thing): **shells**.
2. Hop back one word: **shiny**. It describes the shells, so it's an **adjective**. Keep going.
3. Hop back again: **some**. It tells you how many shells, so it's the **determiner**.

Flip's tip: find the noun first, then hop back past any describing words. The determiner is the **first carriage** of the train.

Warm up: draw a ring round the determiner.

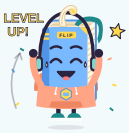
a cat the tall tree my new bike two hungry ducks

Grown-ups: common determiners are the, a, an, my, your, his, her, our, their, this, that, some, every, no and numbers. Ask "Which word tells us which one, whose or how many?"

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2 Try it together

a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Determiner hunt

You need: any storybook and a pencil.

1. Open the book at any page. Read a sentence together.
2. Point to each **noun**. Then hop back to find its **determiner**.
3. Write the determiner, any describing words in between, and the noun in the table.
4. Find **5**. Try to find 5 **different** determiners!

Determiner	Describing words (if any)	Noun

Grown-ups: names like Leo or London usually don't have a determiner. If your child points to a describing word, ask "Does it tell us which one, whose or how many?"

3 Practise

A. Draw a ring round the **determiner** in each phrase.

an orange kite	the sleepy cat	his muddy boots
every green leaf	three small ducks	this old map
our noisy neighbours	some fresh bread	that tiny spider

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B. Underline each determiner. Draw a ring round the noun it goes with.

1. Leo dropped his sandwich.
2. The grumpy goat ate a sock.
3. Mia painted some bright flowers.
4. We saw two tiny frogs.
5. That fluffy dog barked at our postman.

C. The words are in the wrong order. Write each one correctly.

big the dog → _____ **red my bike** → _____

cold a drink → _____ **shiny some coins** → _____

D. Build 2 word trains about things in your home: a determiner, a describing word, then a noun.

determiner	describing word	noun

Challenge

Sam says the determiner in **"the big dog"** is **big**, because it comes just before the noun. Is he right? Explain.

_____

_____

I can... Tick when you can.

- ☐ say what a determiner is
- ☐ find the determiner, even when describing words come after it
- ☐ put the determiner first in a phrase, like the big dog