

COMMUNICATING WITH
GRAMMAR

Skills for Life

2

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PART 1

1 SIMPLE PRESENT
AND PRESENT
PROGRESSIVE

2 NOUNS AND
PRONOUNS

3 ARTICLES AND
DETERMINERS

4 SIMPLE PAST, PAST
PROGRESSIVE,
USED TO

5 COMPARATIVES,
SUPERLATIVES, AND
EQUATIVES

6 THE FUTURE

3

Articles and Determiners

OVERVIEW

- Articles *a*, *an*, and *the* come before a noun.
- Determiners also come before the nouns they modify. They indicate quantities of nouns.
- Determiners can be units of measurement; they tell us *how much* of the noun we have or need. We need to use the correct determiners with countable and non-countable nouns.

Warm-up

In pairs, take turns answering these questions.

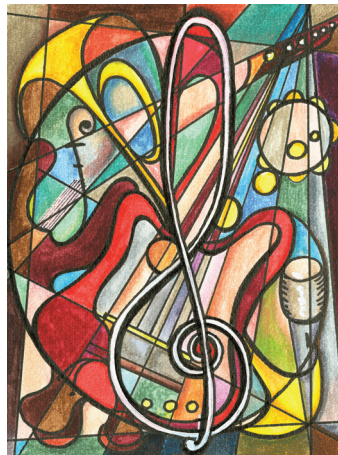
- How often do you go shopping for food? What do you like to buy?
- What are some items that you prefer to buy in large amounts?
- What are some items that you prefer to buy in small amounts and more frequently?
- What are the four or five things that you absolutely must always have in your fridge at home?

ARTICLES

Articles can be either definite (*the*) or indefinite (*a* and *an*).

Warm-up

Work in pairs. Look at the pictures below. What do you think each picture is?



A: I think it's a man with an umbrella.

B: I think it's a giraffe.

A: That's the sky . . . and these are clouds.

Formation

- Place the article before the noun.
- We use the indefinite article *a* with a noun that we are talking about for the first time, or that is one of many:

I have a cat and a dog.

I'd like a glass of orange juice and a bagel, please.

- Before a vowel sound (a, e, i, o, u), *a* is changed to *an*:

I had an egg for breakfast.

He ordered an ice-cream sandwich.

Ouch! There is an object in my eye.

There's an umbrella in the car.

When the letter *u* is pronounced [yoo], we use *a*:

a university, a uniform

- The definite article *the* is used to refer to a specific noun—something that is known or that we have already talked about:
I have a cat and a dog. The cat is white, and the dog is black.
I'd like a glass of orange juice and a bagel, please. Can I have the bagel with butter and cheese?
- In English, when making a general statement about a plural noun, often no article is needed.

Singular Article	Plural Article	Example Sentences
the	the	This is the book I want to buy. That's the neighbour's cat. This is the book I was talking about. The neighbourhood children are playing outside.
a		A train can go very fast. A mobile phone shouldn't be the only means of communication. (general statement, mobile phone: singular)
an		An apple a day, keeps the doctor away.
Ø (no article)	Ø (no article)	Bicycles are very economical. Mobile phones are becoming more and more of a necessity in today's busy world. (general statement, mobile phones: plural)

EXERCISE 1

In the dialogue below, circle the correct article each time.

Angela is sick. The pharmacist told her to follow these instructions to get better.

Pharmacist:

Take (a / an / the / Ø) Aspirin every day. It doesn't matter what time of (a / an / the / Ø) day you take it. It is very important that you take the new Vitamin C pill that the doctor gave you every morning before breakfast. Don't forget, you should take (a / an / the / Ø) pill out of the bottle and you chew it. Do not swallow it. It is

too big. (A / An / The) doctor has written (a / an / the / Ø) note that you should eat garlic for your high blood pressure. Just include it with your meals. You can take the stomach capsule after your lunch and after (a / an / the / Ø) snack. All this should help you feel better.

Now don't forget: "(A / An / The) apple a day keeps (a / an / the / Ø) doctor away."

Angela:

Thank you. You know what I always say, "(A / An / The) clove of garlic a day keeps everybody away!"

DETERMINERS

There are other categories of non-countable nouns. For example:

- **Natural Matter:** sand, air, soil, oxygen, water
- **Natural Phenomena:** lightning, magnetism, sunshine, weather, thirst, hunger
- **Ideas, Beliefs, Feelings:** selfishness, anger, kindness, generosity, capitalism, democracy
- **Subjects of Study:** history, chemistry, biology, geography, economics

Determiners are words that express the number or amount of the nouns mentioned. Which determiner is used depends on whether a noun is countable or non-countable.

In English, some nouns are considered countable and some non-countable.

Countable nouns have plural forms: oranges, doctors, schools, puppies, children.

Non-countable nouns do not have plural forms: equipment, luggage, jewellery, money, milk, furniture.

Groups of things that have countable parts are also non-countable.

- **This is the room where we keep the soccer equipment.**
(Equipment can include many items such as goal posts, nets, shin pads, uniforms, balls, scoreboard, etc.)
- **We have some homework to do for English: an assignment and a presentation.**
(Homework is non-countable, but an assignment can be plural: assignments.)

Warm-up

What do you look at while you are studying at home? Do you have a favourite poster on your wall? Choose from the list below, then share your ideas with a partner.

_____ a beautiful scene, like a beach or mountains

_____ a picture of a city, with lots of bright lights

_____ a simple picture, like a few flowers in a vase

- _____ a picture of your favourite musical group or movie star
- _____ something abstract, with many different colours and shapes
- _____ a copy of a very well-known work of art
- _____ something different?

Formation

USING THE CORRECT DETERMINERS

1 Determiners Used with Countable Nouns	Example Sentences
many	There are many apples in the basket. Many people were at the park for the fireworks.
several	Several books were overdue at the library. Several classes were cancelled on the day of the storm.
a few	We saw a few people at the bus stop. There are a few players still left on the field.
(very) few*	Few people were ready for the flood. The mayor was worried. I am new to this city. I know very few people.

2 Determiners Used with Non-countable Nouns	Example Sentences
much	Do you have much homework tonight?
a great deal (of)	The students spent a great deal of time on their homework that night.
a little	Please add a little salt to the spaghetti sauce.
(very) little*	Please hurry up; we have very little time.

***Note:** *Few* and *little* without the article *a* indicate a very small quantity or amount. The meaning is generally negative; in other words, you don't have as much or as many as you would like.

I have a few good friends. (positive) I have people I like and trust. **I have very few good friends.** (negative) I am lonely.

I have a little time. (positive) I can help you. **I have very little time.** (negative) I am feeling stressed.

3 Determiners Used with Both Countable and Non-countable Nouns	Example Sentences	
all (the)	All coffee is available to purchase by the bag.	All coins dropped at once onto the floor.
most	He spends most of his time in the library.	Most of his marks were passing grades.
a lot (of), lots (of)	A lot of sugar was used to make that iced tea. We need lots of money for our vacation.	A lot of people were hurt when the bridge collapsed. Lots of birds flocked over the water, calling loudly.
enough, plenty (of)	We have enough milk to make it through breakfast tomorrow. There is plenty of water to put out our campfire.	Do you have enough blankets to keep you warm? Plenty of books were available at 30 percent off during the sale.
some	Some nervousness is natural when you speak in front of an audience.	Some boats were sailing through the harbour on their way to the island.
none (of the), no	None of her friends was home when she called. None of the team was ready to go on the field.	No items were left on the shelves after the big sale. No team member was in the penalty box.



None of the players **is** on the field.



Some of the players **are** on the field.



All of the players **are** on the field.

EXERCISE 2

Paula and David are having dinner in a restaurant. Read their conversation with the server. On the next page, fill in each blank with a word in the list below. Use each word only once.

a little the no some a few several a lot of an a Ø (nothing)

Server: Good evening. I'll be your server tonight. Let me tell you about our specials. We have _____ specials tonight. We have fish with _____ potatoes and vegetables, spaghetti Bolognese, and chicken curry.

David: Great. I'd like _____ fish, but can I have it with _____ vegetables and _____ potatoes? I'm on a diet. Oh, and I'd like a Caesar salad, but with only _____ salad dressing.

Server: And for you, ma'am?

Paula: May I have _____ omelette and fries? I only want _____ fries; I'm not very hungry.

Server: No problem. Can I get you some drinks?

Paula: I'll just have _____ glass of water, please. And can we have _____ bread?

David: Same for me, please.

Server: I'll be right back with your water.

EXERCISE 3

Circle the correct determiners in the following sentences. There may be more than one correct answer for each.

Our Lovely Planet

Our beautiful and lovely planet is going through **(a great deal of / many / some)** turmoil these days. In recent years we have had **(a lot of / much / many)** earthquakes followed by lots of dangerous tsunamis. Following **(plenty / few / many)** big quakes, there are also **(several / little / much)** aftershocks.

Many disastrous events are linked to the changes to the atmosphere. **(Much / Most)** people suspect that **(much / many / a little)** years of pollution have contributed to climatic changes. Last year alone, **(much / many / lots of)** floods caused a lot of the mudslides in parts of the west coast. Sometimes you see **(many / much / few)** of the forests burn because there isn't **(much / many / enough)** rain, while in the same country so many homes are flooded!

(**Much / Several / Little**) scientists and (**a few / some / most**) meteorologists have tried to force governments to make regulations to reduce pollution, but it is a slow process. There are (**most / few / enough**) skeptics left these days; almost (**all / much / no**) people agree that we have to take care of our lovely planet. If we (**none / some / all**) do a little every day to help, (**lots of / a lot of / a great deal of / several**) good change can happen.

EXERCISE 4



Artist Ken Kendall is talking about his life and work. Fill in each blank with an article or determiner (or leave it blank if nothing is needed). There may be more than one correct answer.

I'm _____ artist. I paint _____ abstract paintings. I painted 50 abstract paintings last year. I like to use _____ colours, but I do have _____ favourites: red, orange, and purple.

My career did not start well. I had a show at _____ big art gallery, but _____ of my paintings sold. I made _____ money. I lived in poverty for five years! Then, _____ famous art collector heard about me. She bought _____ of my paintings; _____ best one cost \$2,000.

People ask me where I get my ideas from. I spend _____ time travelling. Last year, I spent _____ weeks in Australia. I want to travel more, but I don't have _____ time.

I work _____ days in the week. I paint _____ day, and I drink _____ cups of coffee while I work. In the evening, I sometimes go to _____ concert or _____ movie. I go to _____ bed early.

COMPARING AMOUNTS

Determiner	Comparative	Superlative
much / a lot of This company lost much information in the fire.	more . . . than This company lost more information in the fire than the company next door did.	the most This company lost the most information of all.
many / a lot of This company has many employees.	more . . . than That company has more employees than this one.	the most The company on the edge of town has the most employees of all.

Continued

Determiner	Comparative	Superlative
little / a little I have little free time.	less . . . than Jing has less free time than I do.	the least Kevin has the least free time of all of us.
a few We have a few pieces of furniture.	fewer . . . than Clair and Leo have fewer pieces of furniture than we do.	the fewest Carol and Trevor have the fewest pieces of furniture of all of us.

The correct spelling of the word we use to compare two things is *than*, NOT *then*.

You have less than 10 minutes to do the quiz.

EXERCISE 5

Fill in the blanks to correctly complete the sentences. Use a word or expression from the list. Some words may be used more than once.

much many a lot of more the most little few the least the fewest

- Norbert has _____ CDs than Janet.
- Jenny makes \$12 per hour, Sue makes \$13.50, and Petra makes \$15. Petra makes _____ money of all the women.
- Can you answer these emails? I have very _____ time and _____ other tasks to do.
- Yasmine writes _____ poems. She wants to publish a book.
- The Sutherlands have two grandchildren, the Chens have five, and the McGregors have eight. The Sutherlands have _____ grandchildren.
- Emmanuel spends _____ of his time volunteering. He wins the prize for doing _____ volunteer work of all the students.
- They live in a small town, so they have _____ opportunities to go to the theatre.
- Isabella watches three hours of television per week, Mansour watches five hours, and Andreia watches twelve hours. Isabella watches _____ television of all of them.

EXPRESSING EQUALITY

Keywords	Use	Example Sentences
as many . . . as	To show that two groups of countable nouns are equally large in number	Alan has as many pairs of shoes as his brother does. Stella won as many games of chess as her sister did.
as few . . . as	To show that two groups of countable nouns are equally small in number	This lineup has as few people as the next one does. Belinda made as few mistakes on her grammar test as Roy did.
as much . . . as	To show that two amounts of non-countable nouns are equally large in number	She has as much information as I have. Chia drank as much coffee as Shu did.
as little . . . as	To show that two amounts of non-countable nouns are equally small in number	I can't help you. I have as little money as you have. They have as little hope as you have.

EXERCISE 6

Fill in the blanks to correctly complete the sentences. Use the words from the list. Look at the example to help you.

mistakes	software	information	advice	cookies
noise	research	cupcakes	talent	music

We wanted as much _____ as possible. → We wanted as much information as possible.

- The children ate as many _____ as they could.
- The company wanted to buy as much _____ as it could afford.
- My mother ordered as many _____ from the caterer as the last time.
- The director wanted as little _____ as possible during rehearsal.
- I might win the singing contest. I have as much _____ as the other competitors!
- You should try to make as few _____ as possible on the exam.

EXERCISE 7

Fill in the blanks. Use *much*, *many*, *few*, or *little*.

- 1. I didn't take as _____ vacation photos as my sister did.
- 2. I'll give you as _____ help as I can with your project.
- 3. Sandra's friends were very helpful; they gave her as _____ advice as her parents did.
- 4. Kyle drinks as _____ coffee as his wife; neither of them likes it.
- 5. We're moving to Florida, so we're trying to buy as _____ winter clothes as we can.
- 6. Hitomi didn't eat as _____ slices of pizza as Evan did.



COMMUNICATIVE ACTIVITY 1

With a partner, look at the information about the soccer teams listed in the box below. Discuss the teams' various wins and losses. In the space provided, write three positive sentences using *as . . . as*. Now exchange books with your partner and write three negative sentences using *not as . . . as* using your partner's sentences.

Team	Wins	Losses	Ties
Wildcats	6	4	2
Tigers	4	4	4
Bears	7	3	2
Hawks	6	3	3
Eagles	4	6	2
Lions	3	7	2

The Tigers have as many wins as losses.
The Eagles do not have as many losses as the Lions.



COMMUNICATIVE ACTIVITY 2

Personal Habits

Walk around the room, asking your classmates questions about their activities and habits, and filling in their names and details in the appropriate space in the chart.

drinks coffee	exercises daily	studies English	likes walking	eats chocolate

Then write three sentences using *as . . . as* or *not as . . . as*.

Nadia drinks two cups of coffee a day. Simon only drinks one cup of coffee in the morning. Simon does not drink as much coffee as Nadia.

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER



COMMUNICATIVE ACTIVITY 3

Favourite Candy Bar Ingredients

Everyone brings in their favourite snack or candy bar to class. Work in groups of three or four.

Someone goes first and places the candy in the middle of the table. Everyone else in the group tries to guess the ingredients of the candy or snack bar. Use proper articles and determiners when listing ingredients.

After listening to everyone, the one who had brought in the candy bar reads the contents of the candy from the package. The one who guesses the best wins the candy.

There is lots of sugar, some nuts, and a little bit of butter and cocoa in this chocolate bar.

There is no caramel, but there is some honey and lots of raisins in this snack bar.

COMMUNICATIVE ACTIVITY 4

Name That Job!

What is important to you when choosing a job? Work in pairs. Look at the following descriptions, and choose the perfect job for each of these people.

1. "I like working with people. I like to meet lots of new people every day. I have plenty of energy. I take several trips each year, so I don't mind travelling."
"You should be a/an _____."
2. "I am not a morning person! I do most of my work at night. I prefer to work alone, or with just a few other people. I don't like stressful environments. I have lots of creativity."
"You should be a/an _____."
3. "I want to make a lot of money. I can work lots of hours in the week, and I only need a few short breaks every day. I don't need many vacations."
"You should be a/an _____."

COMMUNICATIVE ACTIVITY 5

Your Choice!

Work in groups of four. Choose your answer to each of these questions, then discuss your answers with your group.

1. It's your birthday. Your friends are taking you out for a special dinner. You can eat anything you like. What do you choose?
 - a) A burger, some fries, and a glass of cola
 - b) A spicy dish, like curry and rice
 - c) Lots of salad and fresh fruit
 - d) Other _____
2. Hooray! All of your classes are cancelled today. What do you plan to do?
 - a) Call a friend, see a movie, and perhaps go to the mall.
 - b) Do lots of homework; you want to get ahead in your courses.
 - c) Go to the gym, play a sport, or take an exercise class.
 - d) Other _____

3. You see a friend cheating on a test. What do you do?
- a) Tell the teacher; cheating is wrong.
 - b) Nothing—friendship is more important.
 - c) Ignore it. All students cheat sometimes.
 - d) Other _____
4. You win \$10,000 in the lottery. What do you do with the money?
- a) Put it in the bank.
 - b) Buy a new computer, or some new clothes.
 - c) Take a trip with a few close friends.
 - d) Other _____

Reading

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

KIAN'S PICTURES

Kian is a 75-year-old man living at a retirement home in Georgetown, Barbados. Kian was born in Halifax, Canada, but lived most of his life in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. These days Kian is in good hands at the retirement home where they take good care of him. He is, after all, a celebrity.

Kian is the famous painter of dream houses. No one can believe that he has never had a house of his own, yet he painted some of the most beautiful houses people can only dream about.

Kian grew up an orphan and lived in different foster homes until he moved to Montreal as a young man and studied fine arts. With so many years as a student and a young man trying to make ends meet, he never had much money. He didn't have a chance to save enough money for a house of his own.

He made most of his living by painting pictures of houses. When he was 25, a real-estate agent named Ramin Singh bought one of his paintings to display at his office. Soon Ramin noticed that people who came in to see him about purchasing a home often commented on the painting and even said, "We want to purchase a house like the one in that picture."

Ramin went looking to find Kian and after finding him quite poor, offered him a good salary to paint more images of dream homes. About a couple of years later, many real-estate agents' and architects' offices and personal homes were displaying Kian's paintings. By this time, three original homes had been built that were inspired by his paintings and lots more were built in the years to come. Outside one of these homes is a plaque that reads, "The design of this home was inspired by Kian, the painter."

Kian's paintings had details and colours that left viewers in awe. In one particular painting, he shows the details of the roof, the lights and shadows and even the shadow of a bird flying over the roof. Below, he shows each and every brick of the front of the

house, and the one middle corner brick that has eroded and discoloured. This is how he made all his paintings look real.

His paintings are of the imagination, a world where homes are delightful to look at and to live in; however, Kian himself never got to live in any home that looked like his own pictures. He travelled to promote his paintings while fighting health problems with his lungs. He paid an enormous amount of money to maintain his health and is still struggling with it.

He is finally settled down on this beautiful island today, but he may only have a little time left. He needs the medical care of retirement living with a nurse checking on him frequently.

Although Kian never fulfilled his own dream of owning and living in a beautiful house with a view of the river, a grand entrance, a bay window, or any of those luxurious extras of a mansion, he did inspire many builders, designers, and architects. Today his art is famous for inspiration and his fans visit him at the retirement home and show him pictures of their own homes, which were inspired by his paintings.

COMPREHENSION

Answer the following questions. Use complete sentences.

1. Did Kian have much money or success as a young man? Explain.

2. In which offices did Kian's paintings first appear?

3. Give some examples of the kinds of details found in Kian's paintings.

4. What is the main reason why he can't live in a house today?

5. Which professional people get their ideas from Kian's work?

Listening



LOST AND FOUND

Listen to the audio. You will hear a dialogue between a tourist and a museum attendant at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

COMPREHENSION

Listen again and complete the following chart.

Article	Item	Quantity	At the Lost and Found?
	Japanese passport		
	German passports	two	✓
a	gold pen	one	✗
	gold key ring		
	athletic shoes		
	navy folding binder		
	map of New York		
	amusement park map		
	bus schedule		
	brochure		
	backpack		
	pens		
	camera		
	navy leather wallet		
	writing pads		
	Met picture books		
	Kumiko's friends		
	ink pen		
	iPad		

DISCUSSION

Work in pairs. Discuss the following questions with your partner.

1. Which items do people lose most often in museums?
2. Where was Kumiko when she noticed her passport was missing?
3. How many passports does Albert have?

4. Why are these passports not Kumiko's?
5. What does Kumiko keep inside her folding binder? Name three items.
6. What is the third item Kumiko has lost?

In your opinion, what is the worst thing to lose in a large building like a museum? (It could be, for example, your wallet, your passport, the name of your hotel, your travel companions.) Explain why.

Writing

Write a short composition (about 200 words) describing your favourite room in your home.

Describe everything that is in this room in detail and then explain why you like it so much. Where possible, use words like *a/an*, *the*, *some*, *several*, *many*, *enough*, *few*, and so on.

CHAPTER REVIEW

Summary

- Articles are either definite or indefinite. The definite article *the* is used for specific nouns, singular or plural. The indefinite article *a* or *an* is used for singular nouns or in general statements.
- Determiners are words that give information about the quantity of the noun: how much or how many. Countable nouns use determiners such as *many*, and non-countable nouns use determiners such as *much*. Some determiners, such as *a lot of* or *lots of*, can go with both countable and non-countable nouns.

EXERCISE 1

Circle the most appropriate article in parentheses. Choose Ø for no article.

1. This is (a / an / the / Ø) same girl I was telling you about yesterday.
2. (A / An / The / Ø) apple a day keeps (a / an / the / Ø) doctor away.
3. (A / An / The / Ø) Caribbean Islands have (a / an / the / Ø) warm climate.
4. (A / An / The / Ø) people should be respectful to the elderly.
5. I don't have (a / an / the / Ø) clue what you're talking about.

6. We stayed in (a / an / the / Ø) good hotel on our vacation.
7. Jim is in (a / an / the / Ø) bathroom. He's taking (a / an / the / Ø) shower.
8. I want to go to (a / an / the / Ø) new Italian restaurant and order (a / an / the / Ø) pizza.
9. There was (a / an / the / Ø) great movie on TV last night.
10. Stefanie wants to be (a / an / the / Ø) actor when she grows up.

EXERCISE 2

There are six determiner errors in the following paragraph. Find and correct them.

Years ago, when calculators first became popular among students, much math teachers were concerned that perhaps any young people would forget their times tables and rely on their calculators. Today, a little language teachers are concerned that students won't develop handwriting skills because they spend many of their time typing on a keyboard. You just have to walk into a college or university classroom and you see almost all of the students have a laptop or an iPad and take notes electronically. Many of their assignments are typed and they also type when they do their research online. There have been a lots of changes in the classrooms in the last a few decades. I wonder how many more changes are yet to come.

EXERCISE 3

Fill in each blank with *much*, *many*, *a lot of*, *more . . . than*, or *the most*.

1. Elena spent _____ time planning her trip to London.
2. She read _____ guidebooks and found _____ information online.
3. However, she got _____ advice from her English friends than from the library or the Internet.
4. For example, she learned that London hotels cost _____ money than hotels in Toronto or Ottawa.
5. She also discovered that she could see _____ famous sites in one day if she planned her time well.
6. She decided to visit some shops and parks, but to spend _____ time in the world-famous museums.
7. They don't cost _____ money; in fact, _____ of them are free!
8. Elena is hoping to have _____ fun in London.