



NDA/NA ENGLISH MASTERY SERIES

MODULE 04

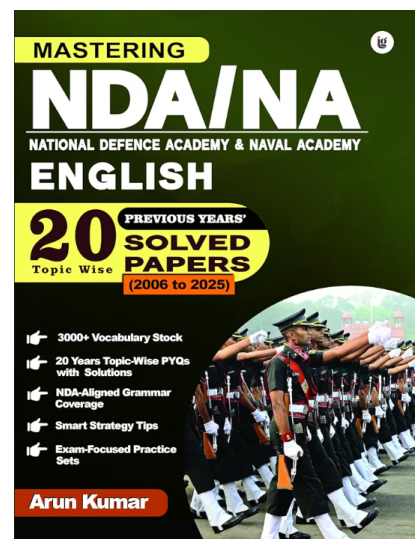
Determiners

Articles, quantifiers and determiner usage with common-error practice.

From the book

MASTERING NDA/NA ENGLISH

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DETERMINER

➤ Definition

A determiner is a word that comes before a noun to show how the noun is being used. Determiners help to specify *which*, *how many*, or *what kind* of noun is being referred to.

👉 They always come **before a noun**, and usually before adjectives if the noun has any.

Examples:

- *This book* is very useful. (Determiner: This)
- *Some students* are absent today. (Determiner: Some)
- *An honest man* is respected. (Determiner: An)

➤ Types of Determiners

Determiners are broadly classified into the following categories:

A. Articles

These are the most basic determiners.

TYPE	EXAMPLES
Definite	the
Indefinite	a, an

Use:

- A is used before a consonant sound: a book, a university
- An is used before a vowel sound: an apple, an honest man
- The is used to refer to a specific noun: the moon, the President

B. Demonstratives

They point to specific nouns.

DETERMINERS	USE	EXAMPLE
This, That	Singular nouns	This chair, That idea
These, Those	Plural nouns	These books, Those pens

C. Possessives

Show ownership or relation.

Possessive Determiners: My, Your, His, Her, Its, Our, Their

Example:

- *Her car* is parked outside.
- *Their performance* was amazing.

D. Quantifiers

Tell us how much or how many.

TYPE	EXAMPLES
Definite	One, two, three, both, all, several
indefinite	Some, any, much, many, few, little

Usage Tip:

- *Many, few* → used with countable nouns.
- *Much, little* → used with uncountable nouns.

E. Distributives

Refer to members of a group individually.

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DETERMINER	USAGE	EXAMPLE
Each	Refers to individuals	Each student was ready.
Every	Refers to all collectively	Every child needs love.

F. Interrogative Determiners

Used to ask questions about nouns.

DETERMINERS	EXAMPLES
What	What book are you reading?
Which	Which colour do you prefer?
Whose	Whose pen is this?

➤ Common Errors and Corrections

Incorrect Sentence	Correct Sentence
He has a any idea.	He has an idea.
I saw this apples in the basket.	I saw these apples in the basket.
The each student must attend the class.	Each student must attend the class.
I don't have some money.	I don't have any money.
She is much talented.	She is very talented. (Not "much talented")

➤ Summary Table

Type	Examples
Articles	a, an, the
Demonstratives	this, that, these, those
Possessives	my, your, his, her, their, our
Quantifiers	some, any, few, little, many, much
Distributives	each, every, either, neither
Interrogatives	what, which, whose

Table of English Determiners

Type	Determiner(s)	Example Sentence	Explanation / Answer
Articles	a / an	She bought a book.	Indefinite article for singular, non-specific noun
	the	The sun rises in the east.	Definite article for a specific noun
Demonstratives	this / that	I like this movie.	Refers to something near (this) or far (that)
	these / those	Those apples are rotten.	Refers to plural things (near = these, far = those)
Possessives	my / your / his / her / its / our / their	Her car is new.	Shows ownership or relation
	some	She has some friends.	Used for unspecified quantity (countable or uncountable)
	any	Do you have any sugar?	Used in questions/negatives for indefinite amount
	many	There are many books on the table.	Used with countable nouns
	much	There isn't much milk left.	Used with uncountable nouns
	few / a few	Few people know the truth.	"Few" = almost none; "a few" = some
	little / a little	A little water is left.	"Little" = almost none; "a little" = some
	several	Several students passed the	Means more than a few

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Type	Determiner(s)	Example Sentence	Explanation / Answer
Quantifiers		exam.	
	enough	We have enough chairs.	Sufficient quantity
	all	All students must attend.	Refers to the whole group
	most	Most people like music.	Refers to the majority
	none	None of them arrived.	Means not even one
	both	Both answers are correct.	Refers to two items
	each	Each student got a gift.	Refers individually to members of a group
	every	Every child needs love.	Refers to all members collectively
Numbers	one, two, three...	I have two brothers.	Cardinal numbers — show quantity
	first, second, third...	She came first in class.	Ordinal numbers — show position/order
Distributives	either	You can take either road.	One of the two
	neither	Neither option is good.	None of the two
Partitives	a piece of, a slice of, etc.	She took a slice of cake.	Indicates part of a whole

Practice Set: Determiner

Directions: Each sentence contains an error related to articles, determiners, quantifiers, or uncountable nouns. These may include incorrect use of a/an/the, wrong determiner choice (few/little/much/many), article omission before proper/common nouns, or pluralization of uncountable nouns (informations, advices, furniture). Identify the incorrect usage and replace it with the correct article, quantifier, or noun form to ensure grammatical accuracy.

Practice Set 1

- Each of the participants were instructed to bring their own laptop, projector, and a printed version of the report for the technical workshop.
- Few remarks that he made were offensive to my friend.
- Neither of the senior professors, who were known for their clarity and precision, have shown any interest in reviewing the revised manuscript.
- He will not be bringing some food to the party.
- The principal addressed all the queries during the orientation, but failed to mention few important updates regarding the hostel rules.
- There were no less than fifty students present in the classroom.
- The scientist argued that the both explanations—though widely accepted—failed to account for the anomalies in the recent experiments.
- All the machinery in the factory were inspected thoroughly before production resumed after the incident.
- Several of the documents submitted by the applicant appears to be either forged or incomplete.
- This sort of instructions, when followed rigorously, helps in avoiding unnecessary confusion during crisis situations.
- The director claimed to have made many contributions to the project, yet could not substantiate any of them with proper evidences.
- I was surprised that such an urgent issues were not escalated to the higher authorities in time.
- Each of the students, despite their academic excellence, have been asked to reappear for the internal assessment due to attendance shortage.
- A large amount of applicants for the research program had to be rejected due to non-compliance with eligibility criteria.
- The report was filled with a number of inaccurate datas that had not been cross-checked before submission.
- Many of the suggestions offered during the meeting was based on speculation rather than on verifiable facts.
- No any official announcement was made regarding the extension of the fellowship deadline by the concerned department.
- Neither of the solutions proposed by the consultants, although innovative and well-researched, were applicable in the current financial scenario.
- A few students who had previously completed the certification course is now assisting as teaching assistants in the same program.
- The board was informed that these kind of procedural errors, if repeated, could lead to serious administrative lapses.
- I don't think he gave me much useful advices regarding how to manage the logistics during such a large-scale event.
- The candidates were instructed to bring all necessary document for verification, including caste certificates and residential proofs.
- The Vice-Chancellor emphasized that the every department must submit a report on its annual progress by the end of the month.
- There were less provisions made for the safety of workers despite multiple recommendations by the audit team.
- Neither of the solutions seem satisfactory to the committee members.

Practice Set 2

- Many a students, despite attending all the lectures and tutorials, have failed to perform well in the comprehensive examination.
- Each of the research papers submitted for the international conference were expected to meet rigorous academic and formatting standards.
- The external auditors pointed out that much of the transactions lacked the necessary supporting documents.
- A considerable number of evidence has emerged in support of the new climate model developed by the interdisciplinary team.
- He was offered an opportunity to present his findings at the symposium, but he declined due to a few personal reasons.
- The committee has decided to approve only such proposals which clearly demonstrate the both theoretical and practical relevance.

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7. None of the faculty members was available for consultation during the mid-semester break, which caused a lot of inconvenience to students.
8. No less than twenty students has applied for the scholarship this year..
9. The department was instructed to dispose the all outdated chemicals according to the updated safety protocols.
10. Much of the machinery installed in the new unit were imported from European manufacturers to meet efficiency standards.
11. He tried to justify his delay using several excuse, none of which were accepted by the disciplinary committee.
12. This is one of the rare incidents where an official has been suspended solely on the basis of anonymous complaints.
13. The brochure contains a detailed schedule for the event, including time slots for every speaker and a list of all resource person.
14. The panel concluded that a large number of employees was dissatisfied with the current leadership structure and evaluation methods.
15. All of the evidences gathered during the inspection were presented in the final report without any alteration.
16. The research paper failed to address either of the six key assumptions that the hypothesis relied upon.
17. She tried on both the uniforms and finally decided to buy the expensive one.
18. The entire members of the jury unanimously agreed to dismiss the petition due to insufficient legal grounds.
19. She submitted a complete set of photographs, documents, and witness statements to support her every claim.
20. None student in the batch had opted for the advanced module on quantum computation.
21. He was not given many opportunity to speak during the interview, which he later raised with the selection board.
22. I requested him to lend me few books which could help me in my project.
23. Several of the policies introduced by the administration lacks proper implementation guidelines.
24. There was hardly any initiatives taken by the department to resolve the long-pending infrastructural issues.
25. He has given me an useful advice regarding my career..

Answer Key

Practice Set 1

1. Error: *were* → was
Explanation: "Each" is a singular determiner, so the verb should be singular.
2. Error: *few*, Add 'a' before *few*.
3. Error: *have* → has
Explanation: "Neither" is singular; hence, it requires a singular verb.
4. Error: *some food* → any food
Explanation: "Any" is used for negative and interrogative sentences.
5. Error: *few important updates* → a few important updates
Explanation: "Few" without "a" conveys almost none; "a few" is correct to imply "some."
6. Error: Replace 'No less than' with 'No fewer than'
Explanation: for countable nouns ,use *few*.
7. Error: *the both* → both
Explanation: "Both" should not be preceded by "the" when used as a determiner.
8. Error: *were* → was
Explanation: "Machinery" is uncountable and takes a singular verb.
9. Error: *appears* → appear
Explanation: "Documents" is plural, so the verb should be plural.
10. Error: *sort of instructions* → sorts of instructions
Explanation: "Sort of" requires a singular noun, or change to "sorts of" for plural noun.
11. Error: *evidences* → evidence
Explanation: "Evidence" is uncountable and does not have a plural form.
12. Error: *such an urgent issues* → such urgent issues
Explanation: "Issues" is plural, so "an" is incorrect.
13. Error: *have* → has
Explanation: "Each" is singular, so it must be followed by a singular verb.
14. Error: *amount of applicants* → number of applicants
Explanation: "Applicants" is countable; "amount" is used with uncountable nouns.
15. Error: *datas* → data
Explanation: "Data" is already plural in Latin form or treated as uncountable; "datas" is incorrect.
16. Error: *was* → were
Explanation: "Suggestions" is plural, so the verb must be plural.

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| <p>17. Error: <i>No any official</i> → No official or Not any official
Explanation: "No" and "any" should not be used together; it's redundant.</p> <p>18. Error: <i>were</i> → was
Explanation: "Neither" is singular, so it requires a singular verb.</p> <p>19. Error: <i>is</i> → are
Explanation: "A few students" is plural, so the verb must be plural.</p> <p>20. Error: <i>these kind</i> → these kinds
Explanation: "These" is plural, so the noun must also be plural.</p> <p>21. Error: <i>advices</i> → advice
Explanation: "Advice" is uncountable and cannot be pluralized.</p> <p>22. Error: <i>document</i> → documents
Explanation: "All" + plural noun → "documents" (countable and plural needed here).</p> <p>23. Error: <i>the every department</i> → every department
Explanation: "Every" is not preceded by "the" when used as a determiner.</p> <p>24. Error: <i>less provisions</i> → few provisions
Explanation: "Provisions" is countable; "few" is used with countable nouns.</p> <p>25. Error: <i>seem</i> → seems
Explanation: "Neither" is singular and takes a singular verb. Correct: Neither of the solutions seems satisfactory...</p> | <p>Explanation: After "no less than + plural noun," the verb must be plural. Correct: No less than twenty students have applied....</p> <p>9. Error: <i>dispose the all outdated chemicals</i>
Explanation: "Dispose" doesn't take a direct object like this. Correct: <i>dispose of all outdated chemicals...</i></p> <p>10. Error: <i>Much of the machinery... were imported</i>
Explanation: "Machinery" is uncountable singular, so verb should be "was". Correct: <i>...machinery was imported...</i></p> <p>11. Error: <i>several excuse</i>
Explanation: Plural countable noun needs plural form. Correct: <i>several excuses</i></p> <p>12. ✓ No error</p> <p>13. Error: <i>resource person</i>
Explanation: Should be plural for consistency with "all". Correct: <i>resource persons</i></p> <p>14. Error: <i>a large number of employees was</i>
Explanation: "A large number of" takes a plural verb. Correct: <i>employees were dissatisfied...</i></p> <p>15. Error: <i>All of the evidences</i>
Explanation: "Evidence" is uncountable. Correct: <i>All of the evidence gathered...</i></p> <p>16. Error: <i>either</i> , Correct: <i>any</i> (<i>Either is used for two things or items</i>)</p> <p>17. Error: <i>expensive</i> , Correction: <i>more expensive</i></p> <p>18. Error: <i>The entire members</i>
Explanation: "Entire" should be used with singular collective nouns. Correct: <i>The entire jury</i> or <i>All the members...</i></p> <p>19. Error: <i>her every claim</i>
Explanation: The correct order is "...to support each of her claims."</p> <p>20. Error: <i>None student</i>
Explanation: "None" should be followed by 'of' and a plural noun/pronoun.</p> <p>21. Error: <i>many opportunity</i>
Explanation: "Opportunity" is countable. Correct: <i>many opportunities</i></p> <p>22. Error: <i>few</i>
Explanation: lend me "a few books..."</p> <p>23. Error: <i>policies... lacks</i>
Explanation: "Policies" is plural, so verb should be "lack". Correct: <i>policies lack...</i></p> <p>24. Error: <i>any initiatives... was taken</i>
Explanation: Plural "initiatives" needs plural verb. Correct: <i>initiatives were taken...</i></p> <p>25. Error: <i>an useful</i>
Explanation: The article "an" is used before vowel sounds, not just vowels. Since "useful" begins with a consonant sound "yoo," the correct article is "a" useful advice.</p> |
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Practice Set 2

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| <p>1. Error: <i>Many a students</i>
Explanation: "Many a" is followed by a singular noun and verb. Correct: <i>Many a student has failed...</i></p> <p>2. Error: <i>Each of the research papers... were expected</i>
Explanation: "Each" is singular, so the verb should be was. Correct: <i>Each of the research papers was expected...</i></p> <p>3. Error: <i>much of the transactions</i>
Explanation: "Much" is used with uncountable nouns; "transactions" is countable. Correct: <i>many of the transactions...</i></p> <p>4. Error: <i>number of evidence has emerged</i>
Explanation: "Evidence" is uncountable; use "a considerable amount of evidence has emerged..." or "pieces of evidence have emerged..."</p> <p>5. ✓ No error</p> <p>6. Error: <i>the both theoretical and practical</i>
Explanation: Remove "the"; it's incorrect before "both". Correct: <i>...which clearly demonstrate both theoretical and practical relevance.</i></p> <p>7. Error: <i>was</i> , Correct: <i>were</i>
Explanation: 'None' when used with countable plural nouns is treated plural.</p> <p>8. Error: <i>has</i></p> | <p>26. Error: <i>the all outdated chemicals</i>
Explanation: "All" should be followed by "of". Correct: <i>all outdated chemicals...</i></p> <p>27. Error: <i>the every department</i>
Explanation: "Every" is not preceded by "the" when used as a determiner. Correct: <i>every department</i></p> <p>28. Error: <i>less provisions</i>
Explanation: "Provisions" is countable; "few" is used with countable nouns. Correct: <i>few provisions</i></p> <p>29. Error: <i>seem</i>
Explanation: "Neither" is singular and takes a singular verb. Correct: <i>seems</i></p> <p>30. Error: <i>the both theoretical and practical</i>
Explanation: Remove "the"; it's incorrect before "both". Correct: <i>...which clearly demonstrate both theoretical and practical relevance.</i></p> <p>31. Error: <i>was</i>
Explanation: "None" when used with countable plural nouns is treated plural. Correct: <i>were</i></p> <p>32. Error: <i>has</i></p> |
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