

## 32 Determiners

Most of the top automakers have made agreements with either Saab or Volvo to install satellite radios in their cars. But neither company has earned any returns yet, and the technology may not deliver on its promise of CD-quality sound anywhere, anytime. (Fortune website)

### A Determiners

- A determiner is a word used in front of a noun to show which thing you mean, or to show the quantity of something. Determiners include: *a/the, my/your, this/that, all/most/some/any, no/none, much/many/a little/a few, each/every, both/either/neither*.
- Units 30, 34 and 35 also deal with determiners: *some or any? much or many?* (unit 30), *a or the?* (units 34 and 35).
- We do not use a determiner if we are talking generally. See units 30 and 35.  
*Our/Those/Some computers are expensive.* (particular computers)  
*Computers are a part of everyone's life.* (computers in general)

### B All, most, many, some, a few

- Before a plural noun we can use *all/most/many/some/a few*. Note the structures:  
*All/most/many/some/a few employees have 25 days' paid holiday.*  
*All/most/many/some/a few of the employees have 25 days' paid holiday.*  
*All the employees have 25 days' paid holiday.* (NOT ~~Most the.../Many the... etc.~~)
- We can use *my, your*, etc, in place of *the*, and we can use pronouns:  
*All/most/many/some/a few of our employees have 25 days' paid holiday.*  
*All/most/many/some/a few of them have 25 days' paid holiday.*

- See also unit 30
- Before an uncountable noun similar structures are possible. We use *much* in place of *many*, *a little* in place of *a few*, and *it* for the pronoun.  
*All/most/much/some/a little of the information in this report is useful.*  
*All/most/much/some/a little of it is useful.*
  - With singular nouns we do not use the words above, except for a few special expressions:  
*all day, all night*

### C All meaning 'everything' or 'the only thing'

- We can use *all* + subject + verb to mean 'everything' or 'the only thing':  
*That's all I know about it.* (all = everything)  
*All we need is a signature.* (all = the only thing)
- In modern English it is unusual to use *all* as a single-word subject or object. Instead we use *everything*.  
*All the preparations are/Everything is going well.* (NOT ~~All is going well.~~)  
*I want to hear all your news/everything.* (NOT ~~I want to hear all.~~)

### D No, none

- We can use *no* with a singular noun, plural noun or uncountable noun.  
*No employee has more than 25 days' paid holiday.*  
*No new ideas were put forward at the meeting.*  
*There was no useful information in the report.*
- We do not use *no* if there is another negative word. In this case we use *any*.  
*We haven't dismissed any employees.* (NOT ~~We haven't dismissed no employees.~~)
- We do not use *no of*. Instead, we use *none of* or *none* on its own as a pronoun.  
*None of the employees have more than 25 days' paid holiday.*  
*None have more than 25 days' paid holiday.*
- To emphasise the idea of *none* we can use *None at all* or *Not one* or *Not a*.  
A: *How many people came?*  
B: *None at all/Not one!/Not a single person!*  
*Germany's Neuer Markt All Share index dropped below the 1,500 mark for the first time yesterday. Not a single stock in the top 20 stocks showed a gain.* (Yahoo Business News website)

### E Each, every

- The meaning of *each* and *every* is similar and often either word is possible. They are both followed by a singular noun.
- We use *each* when we think of the members of a group as individuals, one by one. It is more usual with smaller groups and can mean only two.  
*Make sure that each parcel has a label.*  
*Samsung and Globetronics know they have to raise their brand profile. Management consultants will debate each firm's strategy, but in the end consumers will determine whether these companies are successful in a more globalized world.* (asiaweek website)
- We use *every* when we think of all the members together, and it is usual with a larger number.  
*Sales have increased every year for the last five years.*  
*I believe every word he says.*
- We can use *each of*, but we cannot use *every of*.  
*Each of the parcels needs a label.*
- *Each* can be used after the subject, or at the end of a sentence.  
*The parcels each need a label.*  
*The parcels need a label each.*

### F Both, either, neither

- We use *both, either* and *neither* to refer to two things.
- *Both* means 'the one and the other'. Note the structures:  
*Both emails/both the emails/both of the emails/both of them are important.*  
*The emails are both important.* I've read **them both**.
- *Either* means 'the one or the other'. *Neither* means 'not the one or the other'.  
*Monday or Tuesday? Yes, either day/either of the days is fine.*  
*Monday or Tuesday? I'm sorry, but neither day/neither of the days is convenient.*  
*This is a hell of a gamble – one that may pay off for both, one, or neither of the two companies.* (Fortune website)

### 32 Practice

#### Exercise 1 A

Match the phrases from the list below with an approximate value.

~~none of them~~ most of them a few of them many of them some of them all of them

- 1 0% ~~none of them~~ .....
- 2 5-25% .....
- 3 25-50% .....
- 4 50-75% .....
- 5 75-95% .....
- 6 100% .....

#### Exercise 2 B C D E F

Underline the correct words.

- There were none/no messages on the answering machine.
- The key account managers each/every have their own list of clients.
- Not one/Not no question has been answered.
- Some of/Some the restaurants have service included in the price.
- Some of/Some restaurants have service included in the price.
- Sorry, but I can't hear either/neither of you properly.
- Each our customers/Our customers each have a separate file on the database.
- I can't come at the weekend. I'm busy both days/every day.
- All of/Every of the files are corrupted by the virus.
- I can't see no/any solution to the problem, I'm afraid.
- The flight and hotel are booked. All/Everything is organised.
- We gave the sales reps each a mobile phone/a mobile phone each.
- Every option has been/Every options have been explored.
- OK, I think that covers all/everything on that point. Shall we move on?

#### Exercise 3 B C D E F

Complete the sentences with a word or phrase from the list below.

all (x2) any no ~~not one~~ none each (x2) every (x2) both either (x2) neither

- We sent letters to sixty customers, but not one replied!
- I can't go. There are only two flights, and there are ..... seats left on ..... of them.
- I can't go. There are only two flights, and ..... of them has any seats left.
- ..... I want is a bit of peace and quiet to finish writing this report.
- I've phoned ..... store in the Yellow Pages and they are ..... out of stock.
- We have three models, and ..... one has its own special features.
- I was nervous at the start of my talk, but after that I enjoyed ..... minute.
- I got three letters, but there were ..... for you, I'm afraid.
- I got three letters, but there weren't ..... for you, I'm afraid.
- The Trade Fair is important. We need ..... Sue and Mike on the stand.
- Both roads lead to the city centre. You can take ..... one.
- You've been six of the best trainees that we've ever had on this course. The best of luck to ..... of you in your future careers.

#### Exercise 4 B C D E F

Rewrite the second sentence so it has a similar meaning to the first sentence and contains the word/s in brackets. Some sentences have two possible answers.

- We only have a week left. (all)  
All we have left is ..... a week.
- All the participants will be sent an agenda. (every)  
..... will be sent an agenda.
- Nobody at all asked a question. (single person)  
..... asked a question.
- This idea won't work, and the other one also won't work. (neither)  
..... will work.
- Not all the audience understood his talk. (some)  
..... understand his talk.
- Not one of my colleagues speaks German. (none)  
..... speak German.
- We only want a weaker dollar. (all)  
..... a weaker dollar.
- No documents were inside this parcel. (any)  
There ..... inside this parcel.
- The hotels were both unsuitable. (neither)  
..... suitable.
- The two proposals are interesting. (both)  
..... interesting.
- These items aren't expensive. (none)  
..... expensive.
- I'm sorry, we have absolutely none. (all)  
I'm sorry, we have .....

#### Exercise 5 B C E F

39 Complete this article by choosing the correct alternative A, B or C below.

### TRANSLATION ON THE NET

The world of online translation is dominated by Amsterdam-based Aquarius.net and California-based Proz.com<sup>B</sup>. (1) ..... maintain a list of translators who bid for jobs posted on the site, but (2) ..... has a different business plan. (3) ..... charges clients to post translation jobs on the site, but Aquarius has started charging translators to register, and also charges transaction fees of up to 7.5% to the translator who gets the job. Meanwhile Proz is still a free site, and gets (4) ..... revenue from advertising. (5) ..... trying to deal with the problem of quality assurance, and (6) ..... translator has their diplomas and qualifications online. And what about the Old Economy off-line translation agencies? They offer better guarantees of quality and (7) ..... them haven't looked to the Internet for a solution yet, but (8) ..... is changing very fast, and the Net offers significant cost benefits to clients. ■

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|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 A Both them      | B Both of them       | C Every of them   |
| 2 A each one       | B every one          | C all of them     |
| 3 A Either of them | B Neither of company | C Neither company |
| 4 A all its        | B most its           | C much its        |
| 5 A Each they are  | B Both they are      | C They are both   |
| 6 A all            | B all of             | C every           |
| 7 A most           | B most of            | C every of        |
| 8 A all            | B the only thing     | C everything      |