

Social Issues- Discuss and Agree Determiners Practice **Articles speaking practice/ Social issues vocabulary**

Work in twos or threes. Try to make sentences that you both/ all think are true starting with words below. The phrases on one line often have different meanings, so choose one. Your teacher will tell you if you should use the worksheet below with no articles (adding articles when necessary) or the version on this page with the articles still in.

- From 1990 to 1999/ (In) the (19)90s...
- A 21st century CEO/ The 21st century CEO/ 21st century CEOs...
- The academic community/ Readers of academic journals,...
- (Drug) addiction/ Becoming a drug addict...
- The chief advantage of/ A major selling point of...
- Airlines/ The travel industry...
- (For) almost all people/ (For) the vast majority of people,...
- Arabic countries/ The Middle East...
- Arctic countries/ Countries near the North Pole...
- Antarctica/ The South Pole...
- Asia/ The Orient...
- A convincing argument for/ The most convincing argument for...
- Baby-boomers/ The baby-boomer generation...
- Beaches/ The coast...
- A big benefit of/ The biggest benefit of...
- Billionaires/ The super-rich...
- (Formal) business clothing/ A suit (and tie)....
- The main cause of/ A major cause of...
- (In) the twenty-first century/ Since 2000...
- Large cities in this country/ The capital city of this country...
- Leaving the countryside/ Depopulated villages...
- Democratic countries/ A democratic country...
- Countries near the equator/ Tropical countries...
- In a couple of years/ In the next couple of years,...
- (In) developing countries/ (In) the developing world...

- A difference between/ The only difference between...
- Becoming a drop out/ Dropping out of the workforce
- In the education system/ In school,...
- The elderly/ Elderly people...
- Electoral systems/ The electoral system (in this country)...
- England/ The United Kingdom...
- The environment/ Environmental problems...
- Everest/ The Himalayas...
- A few/ Few...
- In the (near) future/ From now on...
- Gambling/ The gambling industry...
- A good option.../ A better option/ The best option...
- The (current) government/ (Modern) politicians...
- At home/ In a house or flat,...
- Humans/ A human/ The human species...
- The most important/ A vital...
- Ireland/ The Republic of Ireland...
- Legislation on data security/ The legislation on data security...
- The LGBT community/ LGBT teenagers...
- The media/ Newspapers...
- In June and July/ In the middle of the year...
- Korea/ The Korean Peninsula...
- Modern society/ The modern world...
- Neighbouring countries/ The nearest countries (to this one)...
- New York/ The Big Apple...
- In the North of this country/ In northern towns...
- (In) North America/ (In) the USA...
- NAFTA/ The North American Free Trade Agreement...
- The nuclear power industry/ Nuclear power plants...
- The (official) opposition/ Opposition parties...
- In Pacific nations/ In the Pacific Ocean...

- In the distant past/ A long time ago,...
- Pensions/ The (national) pension system...
- Problems with immigration/ The problems with immigration...
- A large number of people/ Many people...
- Most people/ Most of the people in this room...
- The most polluted places/ Pollution...
- The poor/ Poverty...
- In prison/ As a prisoner,...
- Private education/ The private education system...
- Professionals/ The (upper) middle class...
- A rat/ The rat/ Rats...
- The latest research/ Recent research...
- Right-wingers/ The (alt) right...
- Sociologists/ (The field of) sociology...
- Swedish people/ The Swedish...
- A typical (Japanese) office worker/ The typical (Japanese) office worker...
- (Long-term) unemployed people/ The (long-term) unemployed...
- The United Nations/ United Nations peacekeepers...
- Cambridge University/ The University of Cambridge...
- Vulnerable children/ The most vulnerable children...
- Welfare benefits/ The Welfare State...
- The West/ Western countries...
- (Factory/ Industrial/ Manual) workers/ The working class...
- (In) January to June this year/ (In) the first half of this year...
- Next year/ In the next few years,...

Share some opinions with another group and see if they share your opinions. Ask about any phrases that you couldn't understand and/ or couldn't use.

Add missing determiners to the phrases on the next page. Sometimes you need to add to both phrases and sometimes to just one. The ones on one line always take different articles, e.g. "a" for one and "-" for the other (never two "the" ones on one line).

No articles version

If your teacher tells you to, use this version for the speaking activity, adding any articles needed. When you finish the speaking activity, add any determiners needed below. The ones on one line always take different articles, e.g. "a" for one and "-" for the other (never "the" or "a/ an" to both).

From 1990 to 1999	(In) (19)90s...
21st century CEO	21st century CEO 21st century CEO...
Academic community	Readers of academic journals,...
(Drug) addiction	Becoming drug addict...
Chief advantage of	Major selling point of...
Airlines	Travel industry...
(For) almost all people	(For) vast majority of people,...
Arabic countries	Middle East...
Arctic countries	Countries near North Pole...
Antarctica	South Pole...
Asia	Orient...
Convincing argument for	Most convincing argument for...
Baby-boomers	Baby-boomer generation...
Beaches	Coast...
Big benefit of	Biggest benefit of...
Billionaires	Super-rich...
(Formal) business clothing	Suit (and tie)...
Main cause of	Major cause of...
(In) twenty-first century	Since 2000...
Large cities in this country	Capital city of this country...
Leaving countryside	Depopulated villages...
Democratic countries	Democratic country...
Countries near equator	Tropical countries...
In couple of years	In next couple of years,...
(In) developing countries	(In) developing world...
Difference between	Only difference between...
Becoming drop out	Dropping out of workforce
In education system	In school,...
Elderly	Elderly people...
Electoral systems	Electoral system (in this country)...
England	United Kingdom...
Environment	Environmental problems...
Everest	Himalayas...
Few	Few...
In (near) future	From now on...
Gambling	Gambling industry...
Good option...	Best option...
(Current) government	(Modern) politicians...
At home	In house or flat,...
Humans	Human Human species...
Most important policy	Vital policy
Ireland	Republic of Ireland...



Legislation on data security	Legislation on data security...
LGBT community	LGBT teenagers...
Media	Newspapers...
In June and July	In middle of the year...
Korea	Korean Peninsula...
Modern society	Modern world...
Neighbouring countries	Nearest countries (to this one)...
New York	Big Apple...
In North of this country	In northern towns...
(In) North America	(In) USA...
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement...
Nuclear power industry	Nuclear power plants...
(Official) opposition	Opposition parties...
In Pacific nations	In Pacific Ocean...
In distant past	Long time ago,...
Pensions	(National) pension system...
Problems with immigration	Problems with immigration...
Large number of people	Many people...
Most people	Most of people in this room...
Most polluted places	Pollution...
Poor	Poverty...
In prison	As prisoner,...
Private education	Private education system...
Professionals	(Upper) middle class...
Rat	Rats...
Latest research	Recent research...
Right-wingers	(Alt) right...
Sociologists	(Field of) sociology...
Swedish people	Swedish...
Typical (Japanese) office worker	Typical (Japanese) office worker...
(Long-term) unemployed people	(Long-term) unemployed...
United Nations	United Nations peacekeepers...
Cambridge University	University of Cambridge...
Vulnerable children	Most vulnerable children...
Welfare benefits	Welfare State...
West	Western countries...
(Factory/ Industrial/ Manual) workers	Working class...
(In) January to June this year	(In) first half of this year...
Next year	In next few years,...

Optional: Do the grammar presentation below and use that to help check your answers.

Check your answers with the first worksheet. All other answers are probably wrong, so ask your teacher about any which you wrote differently. You can also ask about any differences in meaning between similar ones.

Determiners grammar presentation

Without looking above, write “a/ an”, “the” or “-” in each of the gaps below depending on which you think matches the grammar explanation. Only one should be possible in each gap. Also fill in the gaps in the examples given to help with and help check your answer.

Determiners in general and specific statements

- _____ + plural noun for (the most common way of) making general statements
- _____ + singular (countable) noun for making general statements (the second most common way, often used to make you imagine one typical example, e.g. one typical person in that situation)
- _____ + singular (countable) noun for making general statements (less common, mainly used to make scientific statements about species etc)
- _____ + uncountable nouns to make general statements (e.g. “_____ political repression”)
- _____ + uncountable nouns to talk about specific things (e.g. “_____ political repression which was mentioned in the New York Times yesterday”)
- _____ + singular countable noun to mean one/ any of a group (e.g. “_____ anarchist protestor” or “_____ Labour Party MP”)
- _____ + something unique/ that there is only one of (e.g. “_____ middle of the ocean”, “_____ sole....”)
- _____ + something that is number one (e.g. “_____ main...”, “_____ best...”)
- _____ + an adjective to mean a whole group of people (e.g. “_____ disabled”, “_____ British”)
- _____ + the name of a whole group (e.g. “_____ Vietnamese community”, “_____ millennial generation”, “_____ tobacco industry” or “_____ population”)
- _____ + something that is considered to be one thing all joined together (e.g. “_____ mainland”)

Determiners in number expressions

- “all/ most/ many/ some + _____ + people” when talking about people in general
- “all of/ most of/ many of/ some of _____ people” when talking about specific people
- _____ + number expressions like “little”, “large amount of” and “couple of” (with n negative meaning)
- “_____ + few” and “_____ + little”, with a negative meaning

Determiners in time expressions

- “_____ + this/ next/ last + week/ month/ year”, and similar phrases like “today”, “tomorrow” and “yesterday”
- “in _____ last ... (s)” to mean times from the past until now (e.g. “in _____ last four decades”, “in _____ last five minutes”)
- “in _____ next ... (s)” to mean times from now and into the future (e.g. “in _____ next two days”, “in _____ next 24 hours”)
- “(In) _____” + a decade (e.g. “in _____ 1890s”)
- “(In) _____” + a century (e.g. “in _____ 16th century”)
- “In _____ past” and “In _____ future” (because there is only one of each)



Determiners in names of places

- _____ + mountain ranges (e.g. “_____ Alps” or “_____ Rockies”)
- _____ + names of (individual) mountains (e.g. “_____ Mont Blanc” or “_____ Mount Rushmore”)
- _____ + names of countries made up of different islands, states, etc, often ending with “-s” (“_____ Netherlands”, “_____ Philippines”, “_____ Seychelles”, “_____ Maldives”, “_____ UAE”, etc)
- _____ + names of individual countries (“_____ Belgium”, “_____ Cyprus”, “_____ Malta”, “_____ Argentina”, “_____ Georgia”, “_____ Greece”, “_____ Kazakhstan”, “_____ Russia”, “_____ Jordan”, “_____ Mongolia”, “_____ Switzerland”, “_____ Thailand”, “_____ Turkey”)
- _____ + official names of countries with “republic”, e.g. “_____ Czech Republic” or “_____ DRC”)
- _____ + continents and parts of continents (“_____ South America”, “_____ Central Asia”, “_____ Australasia”, etc)
- _____ + (official) names of towns and cities (“_____ Paris”, “_____ Athens”, “_____ Brussels”, “_____ Cologne”, “_____ Florence”, “_____ Geneva”, “_____ Guangzhou/ Canton”, “_____ Kiev”, “_____ LA”, “_____ Milan”, “_____ Moscow”, “_____ Munich”, “_____ Naples”, “_____ North Korea”, “_____ Perth”, “_____ Prague”, “_____ Rome”, “_____ Shenzhen”, “_____ Turin”, “_____ Venice”, “_____ Vienna”, “_____ Warsaw”)
- _____ + nicknames of cities and countries (“_____ Windy City”, “_____ Venice of the Midlands”, “_____ sick man of Europe”, “_____ Big Easy”, etc)
- _____ + names of geographical features (“_____ Indian Subcontinent”, “_____ Straits of Malacca”, etc)
- _____ + names of seas and oceans (“_____ Atlantic Ocean”, “_____ South China Sea”, “_____ Sea of Japan”, etc)
- “at/ in + _____” + a place to mean your status (not actually meaning being physically in or at that place, e.g. “at _____ university” to mean being a university student but “at a university” for the location of a protest)
- “In _____ North/ South/ East/ West of...” to mean parts of countries and countries
- “_____ West/ East/ South/ North” to mean (whole) hemispheres of the world

Try to find at least one example of each of these in the example phrases above to start checking your answers.

Suggested answers

Determiners in general and specific statements

- _____ - _____ + plural noun for making general statements (the most common way)
- _____ a/an _____ + singular (countable) noun for making general statements (the second most common way, often used to make you imagine one typical example, e.g. one typical person in that situation)
- _____ the _____ + singular (countable) noun for making general statements (less common, mainly used to make scientific statements about species etc)
- _____ - _____ + uncountable nouns to make general statements (e.g. “_____ - _____ political repression”)
- _____ the _____ + uncountable nouns to talk about specific things (e.g. “_____ the _____ political repression which was mentioned in the New York Times yesterday”)
- _____ a/ an _____ + singular countable noun to mean one/ any of a group (e.g. “_____ an _____ anarchist protestor” or “_____ a _____ Labour Party MP”)
- _____ the _____ + something unique/ that there is only one of (e.g. “_____ the _____ middle of the ocean”, “_____ the _____ sole...”)
- _____ the _____ + something that is number one (e.g. “_____ the _____ main...”, “_____ the _____ best...”)
- _____ the _____ + an adjective to mean a whole group of people (e.g. “_____ the _____ disabled”, “_____ the _____ British”)
- _____ the _____ + the name of a whole group (e.g. “_____ the _____ Vietnamese community”, “_____ the _____ millennial generation”, “_____ the _____ tobacco industry” or “_____ the _____ population”)
- _____ the _____ + something that is considered to be one thing all joined together (e.g. “_____ the _____ mainland”)

Determiners in number expressions

- “all/ most/ many/ some + _____ - _____ + people” when talking about people in general
- “all of/ most of/ many of/ some of _____ the _____ people” when talking about specific people
- _____ a _____ + number expressions like “little”, “large amount of” and “couple of” (with n negative meaning)
- “_____ - _____ + few” and “_____ - _____ + little”, with a negative meaning

Determiners in time expressions

- “_____ - _____ + this/ next/ last + week/ month/ year”, and similar phrases like “today”, “tomorrow” and “yesterday”
- “in _____ the _____ last ... (s)” to mean times from the past until now (e.g. “in _____ the _____ last four decades”, “in _____ the _____ last five minutes”)
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- “(In) _____ the _____” + a decade (e.g. “in _____ the _____ 1890s”)
- “(In) _____ the _____” + a century (e.g. “in _____ the _____ 16th century”)
- “In _____ the _____ past” and “In _____ the _____ future” (because there is only one of each)

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- ___ the ___ + mountain ranges (e.g. “___ the ___ Alps” or “___ the ___ Rockies”)
- ___ - ___ + names of (individual) mountains (e.g. “___ - ___ Mont Blanc” or “___ - ___ Mount Rushmore”)
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- ___ - ___ + names of individual countries (“___ - ___ Belgium”, “___ - ___ Cyprus”, “___ - ___ Malta”, “___ - ___ Argentina”, “___ - ___ Georgia”, “___ - ___ Greece”, “___ - ___ Kazakhstan”, “___ - ___ Russia”, “___ - ___ Jordan”, “___ - ___ Mongolia”, “___ - ___ Switzerland”, “___ - ___ Thailand”, “___ - ___ Turkey”)
- ___ the ___ + official names of countries with “republic”, e.g. “___ the ___ Czech Republic” or “___ the ___ DRC”)
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- ___ - ___ + (official) names of towns and cities (“___ - ___ Paris”, “___ - ___ Athens”, “___ - ___ Brussels”, “___ - ___ Cologne”, “___ - ___ Florence”, “___ - ___ Geneva”, “___ - ___ Guangzhou/ Canton”, “___ - ___ Kiev”, “___ - ___ LA”, “___ - ___ Milan”, “___ - ___ Moscow”, “___ - ___ Munich”, “___ - ___ Naples”, “___ - ___ North Korea”, “___ - ___ Perth”, “___ - ___ Prague”, “___ - ___ Rome”, “___ - ___ Shenzhen”, “___ - ___ Turin”, “___ - ___ Venice”, “___ - ___ Vienna”, “___ - ___ Warsaw”)
- ___ the ___ + nicknames of cities and countries (“___ the ___ Windy City”, “___ the ___ Venice of the Midlands”, “___ the ___ sick man of Europe”, “___ the ___ Big Easy”, etc)
- ___ the ___ + names of geographical features (“___ the ___ Indian Subcontinent”, “___ the ___ Straits of Malacca”, etc)
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- “at/ in + ___ - ___” + a place to mean your status (not actually meaning being physically in or at that place, e.g. “at ___ - ___ university” to mean being a university student but “at a university” for the location of a protest)
- “In ___ the ___ North/ South/ East/ West of...” to mean parts of countries and countries
- “___ the ___ West/ East/ South/ North” to mean (whole) hemispheres of the world