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CHAPTER

Grammar and Usage

Parts of Speech

Nouns, Pronouns, Verbs, Adverbs, Adjectives, Prepositions, Conjunctions

What are Parts of Speech?

In simple language, **Parts of Speech** are the different **categories** of words.

Think of a sentence as a **building**. To make a building, you need different materials like bricks, cement, wood, and glass. Each material has a specific job.

- **Words** are the materials.
- **Parts of Speech** tell us **what job** a word is doing in that sentence.

There are **8 main parts of speech** in English.

The 8 Parts of Speech (with Hindi Meaning)

Here is the list :

Part of Speech	Hindi Name	Job (Function)	Example
1. Noun	संज्ञा (Sangya)	Naming Word. Names a person, place, or thing.	<i>Ram, Dog, Delhi, Love</i>
2. Pronoun	सर्वनाम (Sarvanam)	Substitute Word. Used in place of a Noun to avoid repetition.	<i>He, She, It, They, I</i>
3. Adjective	विशेषण (Visheshan)	Describing Word. Tells you more about a Noun (good or bad).	<i>Good, Red, Tall, Happy</i>
4. Verb	क्रिया (Kriya)	Action Word. Shows what someone is doing .	<i>Run, Eat, Is, Sleep</i>
5. Adverb	क्रिया विशेषण (Kriya Visheshan)	Modifier. Tells how, when, or where an action happens.	<i>Slowly, Very, Yesterday</i>
6. Preposition	संबंध सूचक (Sambandh Suchak)	Position Word. Shows the relationship (time/place) between words.	<i>In, On, At, Under, Of</i>
7. Conjunction	समुच्चय बोधक (Samuchya Bodhak)	Joining Word. Connects two words or sentences together.	<i>And, But, Because, Or</i>
8. Interjection	विस्मयादि बोधक (Vismayadi Bodhak)	Emotion Word. Shows sudden strong feeling.	<i>Wow!, Oh!, Ouch!, Alas!</i>

Example in One Sentence

Let's look at one sentence that uses almost all of them:

"Wow! She quickly ran to the big park and played."

- **Wow!** = Interjection (Emotion)
- **She** = Pronoun (Person)
- **Quickly** = Adverb (How she ran)
- **Ran** = Verb (Action)
- **To** = Preposition (Direction)
- **The** = Article (Type of Adjective)
- **Big** = Adjective (Describes park)
- **Park** = Noun (Place)
- **And** = Conjunction (Joining word)

Noun

Foundations of nouns

Core definition and function

- **Definition:** A noun names a person, place, thing, idea, quality, or phenomenon.
- **Roles in sentences:** Subject, object, complement, apposition, object of preposition.
- **Form properties:** Number (singular/plural), countability (countable/uncountable), case (common/possessive), gender (natural grammatical relevance in pronouns), determiners and modifiers.

Structural behavior

- **Determiners:** Articles, possessives, demonstratives, quantifiers attach before nouns.
- **Modifiers:** Adjectives and prepositional phrases refine meaning (a bright student; the library of the college).
- **Noun phrases:** Head noun with dependents (The old wooden bridge over the river).

Types of nouns with precise rules and examples

Proper nouns

- **Definition:** Specific names of people, places, institutions, days, months.
- **Rules:** Capitalize; typically no article (Rajesh teaches English), but use articles with descriptive apposition (the Rajasthan of my childhood) or for generic class (The Himalayas).
- **Examples:** Rajasthan, Udaipur, Prince College, Tuesday, Diwali.

Common nouns

- **Definition:** General names (teacher, city, book).
- **Rules:** Take articles/determiners; can be singular or plural.
- **Examples:** A student asked a question; The students asked questions.

Collective nouns

- **Definition:** Names of groups considered as a unit (team, committee, faculty).
- **Agreement:** Singular when seen as one unit; plural when emphasizing members' actions. Choose one consistently per sentence.
- **Examples:** The committee has decided. The committee are divided on this issue.

Abstract nouns

- **Definition:** Ideas/qualities/states (honesty, freedom, knowledge).
- **Countability:** Usually uncountable; no plural in general sense. Use quantifiers: much, a lot of, little.
- **Examples:** Honesty is valued; a piece of information (not an information).

Material nouns

- **Definition:** Substances (gold, water, sand).
- **Countability:** Generally uncountable in substance sense; take measure words (a glass of water, two kilograms of rice).
- **Plural exception:** Plural for types/varieties (wines, cheeses).

Countable vs uncountable nouns

- **Countable:** Take a/an; pluralize; use many, few.
- **Uncountable:** No a/an; use much, little, some; pair with measuring nouns (a bit of advice; items of furniture).
- **Tricky set:** advice, luggage, furniture, equipment, information, work (uncountable); job, fact, item, piece (countable).

Concrete nouns

- **Definition:** Physical entities perceived by senses (desk, rain, flower).
- **Note:** Concrete vs abstract is semantic, not grammar-changing; countability rules still apply.

Compound nouns

- **Definition:** Two or more words forming one noun (classroom, check-in, mother-in-law).
- **Pluralization:** Pluralize the main noun (attorneys general, mothers-in-law, check-ins).

Articles and determiners with nouns

Articles

- **A/An:** Singular, countable nouns only. Use an before vowel sounds (an hour, an honest person).
- **The:** Specific reference; known to speaker/listener; unique entities; superlatives; ordinal numbers; names of rivers, mountain ranges, seas, newspapers.
- **Zero article:** Generic plural/uncountable (Students learn best with practice; Education is essential).

Determiner choice

- **Demonstratives:** this/that/these/those for proximity and number.
- **Possessives:** my, your, his, her, our, their (before nouns).
- **Quantifiers:** some, any, much/many, few/little, several, plenty of (sensitive to countability).
- **Numbers/ordinals:** one, two; first, second.

Number and plural forms

Regular plurals

- **Add -s/-es:** book → books; class → classes.
- **-y to -ies:** city → cities (if preceded by consonant); day → days (vowel + y).

Irregular plurals

- **Vowel change:** man → men; foot → feet; tooth → teeth; goose → geese.
- **-f/-fe to -ves:** leaf → leaves; knife → knives (exceptions: roof → roofs).
- **Invariant:** sheep → sheep; species → species; aircraft → aircraft.

Latin/Greek plurals

- **-um → -a:** datum → data; curriculum → curricula.
- **-is → -es:** analysis → analyses; basis → bases.
- **-on → -a:** phenomenon → phenomena; criterion → criteria.

Special cases

- **Plural-only nouns:** scissors, trousers, clothes (use pair or item for singular sense: a pair of scissors).
- **Group of items:** Police (plural agreement: The police are investigating).

Possession and genitives

's genitive

- **Use:** For people, animals, time expressions (Rajesh's class; yesterday's meeting).
- **Complex phrases:** The teacher of English's room (avoid; prefer of-genitive).

Of-genitive

- **Use:** For inanimate objects, long noun phrases (the roof of the building; the policies of the government).

Double genitive

- **Use:** Of + possessive to indicate one among many (a friend of Rajesh's).

Adjectives

The "Quality Checkers" of English Grammar

1. The Real Definition

1.1 What is an Adjective?

An Adjective is a word that modifies (adds detail to) a Noun or a Pronoun. It answers questions like: What kind? Which one? How many? How much?

The "Paint" Analogy:

Imagine a Noun is a blank sketch of a car.

- **Adjective:** Adds color (Red), size (Big), and condition (New).
- *Example:* I have a **red** car. She is **intelligent**.

1.2 Adjective vs. Adverb (The Confusion)

- **Adjective** describes a **Thing/Person** (Noun).
- **Adverb** describes an **Action** (Verb).
- *Compare:*
 - ✓ He is a **quick** runner. (Quick describes "runner" - Noun → Adjective).
 - ✓ He runs **quickly**. (Quickly describes "runs" - Verb → Adverb).

Position of Adjectives

You cannot place adjectives randomly. There are two legal positions.

2.1 Attributive Use

- Placed **BEFORE** the Noun.
- *Example:* Solomon was a **wise** king.
 - ✓ (Wise sits before King).

2.2 Predicative Use

- Placed **AFTER** the Verb (usually 'be' verbs like is/am/are).
- *Example:* The king was **wise**.
Exam Warning: Some adjectives can **ONLY** be used Predicatively (After the verb).
List: Asleep, Afraid, Awake, Alone, Alive.
- *Wrong:* He saw an **asleep** boy.
- *Right:* He saw a boy who was **asleep**.

Classification of Adjectives

To solve "Order of Words" questions, you must know these types.

1. **Adjectives of Quality:** (Big, Beautiful, Honest, Heavy).
2. **Adjectives of Quantity:** (Some, Little, Enough, Whole). *Used for Uncountable Nouns.*
3. **Adjectives of Number:** (One, Two, First, Many, Few). *Used for Countable Nouns.*
4. **Demonstrative Adjectives:** (This, That, These, Those). *Points at things.*
5. **Possessive Adjectives:** (My, Your, His, Her, Their). *Shows ownership.*

Degrees of Comparison (The Core Mechanics)

Adjectives change form to show comparison.

Degree	Usage	Example
Positive	No comparison. Simple quality.	Ram is tall .
Comparative	Comparison between TWO things.	Ram is taller than Shyam.
Superlative	Comparison among MORE THAN TWO .	Ram is the tallest boy in class.

4.1 How to form Degrees?

1. **Short words (1 Syllable):** Add **-er / -est**.
 - ✓ Tall - Taller - Tallest
 - ✓ Hot - Hotter - Hottest
2. **Long words (2+ Syllables):** Add **More / Most**.
 - ✓ Beautiful - More Beautiful - Most Beautiful
 - ✓ Intelligent - More Intelligent - Most Intelligent
3. **Irregular (Memorize these):**
 - ✓ Good - Better - Best
 - ✓ Bad - Worse - Worst
 - ✓ Little - Less - Least
 - ✓ Much/Many - More - Most

Confusing Pairs

This section is where 80% of exam errors come from.

5.1 Little vs. Few (Quantity vs. Number)

	Little (Uncountable Nouns)	Few (Countable Nouns)	Meaning
Stage 1	Little	Few	Hardly any / Almost Zero (Negative).
Stage 2	A Little	A Few	Some / A small amount (Positive).
Stage 3	The Little	The Few	Not much/many, but all that is there.

- *Example (Negative):* I have **little** money. (I can't buy anything).
- *Example (Positive):* I have **a little** money. (I can buy a chai).
- *Example (Specific):* I spent **the little** money I had. (I had a small amount, and I spent all of it).

5.2 Further vs. Farther

- **Farther:** Physical Distance.
 - ✓ Mumbai is **farther** from Delhi than Jaipur.
- **Further:** Next / Additional.
 - ✓ Please give me **further** details. (Not farther details).

5.3 Older vs. Elder

- **Older/Oldest:** Used for people AND things. Takes "**Than**".
 - ✓ This tree is **older** than that one.
 - ✓ Ram is **older** than his friend.
- **Elder/Eldest:** Used ONLY for blood relations (Family). Takes "**To**" (or no preposition).
 - ✓ He is my **elder** brother.
 - ✓ *Wrong:* He is elder than me.
 - ✓ *Right:* He is elder **to** me.

5.4 Nearest vs. Next

- **Nearest:** Distance (Closest).
 - ✓ Where is the **nearest** hospital?
- **Next:** Position (Sequence).
 - ✓ He is sitting **next** to me.

5.5 Later vs. Latter

- **Later:** Refers to Time.
 - ✓ I will call you **later**.
- **Latter:** Refers to Position (The second one mentioned).
 - ✓ I like tea and coffee, but I prefer the **latter**. (Latter = Coffee).

The "Latin Adjectives" Rule

Normally, Comparative adjectives end in "er" and take "than" (Taller than).
However, 7 words taken from Latin end in -or and take "TO".

The List:

1. Junior
2. Senior
3. Superior
4. Inferior
5. Prior
6. Anterior
7. Posterior

- *Wrong:* He is senior **than** me.
- *Right:* He is senior **to** me.

Special Case: Prefer / Preferable

- These also take "To", not than.
- *Right:* I prefer coffee **to** tea. (Never 'than tea').
- *Right:* Death is preferable **to** dishonor.

The Correct Order of Adjectives (OSASCOMP)

If you have many adjectives for one noun, you must follow this sequence:

O - Opinion (Beautiful, Ugly, Good)

S - Size (Big, Small, Tall)

A - Age (Old, New, Young)

S - Shape (Round, Square)

C - Color (Red, Blue)

O - Origin (Indian, American)

M - Material (Wooden, Plastic)

P - Purpose (Writing, Walking)

Noun

- *Exam Question:* A / Indian / beautiful / old / chair. (Rearrange)
- *Logic:* Beautiful (Opinion) → Old (Age) → Indian (Origin).
- *Answer:* A **beautiful old Indian** chair.

Crucial Syntax Rules (Spotting Errors)

Rule 1: Double Comparatives are Forbidden

Never use two comparative words together.

- *Wrong:* He is **more taller** than me.
- *Right:* He is **taller** than me.
- *Wrong:* It is the **most best** book.
- *Right:* It is the **best** book.

Rule 2: Gradual Increase

When something is changing continuously, we use: **Comparative + and + Comparative.**

- *Wrong:* The weather is getting **hot and hot.**
- *Right:* The weather is getting **hotter and hotter.**

Rule 3: "The + Adjective" = Plural Noun

If you put "The" before an adjective describing a group of people, it becomes a **Plural Noun.**

- *Rich* = (Adjective).
- *The Rich* = Rich People (Plural Noun).
- *Wrong:* The poor **is** suffering.
- *Right:* The poor **are** suffering.

Rule 4: Cardinal vs. Ordinal (The OC Rule)

If a sentence has a Cardinal number (One, Two, Three) and an Ordinal number (First, Second, Third), the order is **Ordinal + Cardinal (OC)**.

- *Wrong:* The **two first** chapters are easy.
- *Right:* The **first two** chapters are easy.

Rule 5: Hyphenated Adjectives

Compound adjectives containing numbers are always singular.

- *Wrong:* A **five-stars** hotel.
- *Wrong:* A **ten-rupees** note.
- *Right:* A **five-star** hotel.
- *Right:* A **ten-rupee** note.

Comparison Nuances

Rule: "Other" is necessary

When comparing one thing to others in the *same* group, you must use "Other".

- *Wrong:* Gold is heavier than any metal. (This implies Gold is heavier than itself).
- *Right:* Gold is heavier than any **other** metal.

Rule: "Times" comparison

If you use "times" (2 times, 3 times), do not use comparative degree. Use "As...As".

- *Wrong:* My car is two times **bigger** than yours.
- *Right:* My car is two times **as big as** yours.

Practice Exercise (Spot the Error)

(Include 50 questions in your PDF. Here are key examples).

Q1: He is the most perfect gentleman.

- **Error:** "Perfect" is an absolute adjective. It cannot be more or most.
- **Ans:** He is a **perfect** gentleman. (Remove 'most').

Q2: She is wiser than beautiful.

- **Rule:** When comparing two qualities of the *same* person, use "More + Positive Degree", not the "-er" form.
- **Ans:** She is **more wise** than beautiful.

Q3: Of the two boys, he is the best.

- **Rule:** When choosing between only two, use "The + Comparative".
- **Ans:** Of the two boys, he is **the better**.

Q4: I have less books than you.

- **Error:** Books are countable. "Less" is for uncountable.
- **Ans:** I have **fewer** books than you.

Q5: This is the most unique building.

- **Error:** Unique means one of a kind. It cannot be "more" or "most".
- **Ans:** This is a **unique** building.

Conjunctions

The "Fevicol" of English Grammar

The Core Concept

1.1 What is a Conjunction?

A Conjunction is a "Connector." It acts like a bridge or a hook that joins two things together. Without conjunctions, English would be a series of short, choppy, robotic sentences.

It joins:

1. **Word to Word:** *Ram **and** Shyam.*
2. **Phrase to Phrase:** *In the morning **or** at night.*
3. **Clause to Clause:** *I ran fast **but** I missed the train.*

1.2 The "Connector" vs. The "Preposition"

This is a major confusion point.

- **Preposition:** Connects a Noun/Pronoun to the rest of the sentence.
 - ✓ *He sat **beside** me.* (Beside = Preposition).
- **Conjunction:** Connects two clauses (Subject + Verb sets).
 - ✓ *He sat **while** I stood.* (While = Conjunction).

The Three Families of Conjunctions

To master this topic, you must know the three types.

2.1 Coordinating Conjunctions (The Equalizers)

These join two items of equal rank. (Noun to Noun, Sentence to Sentence).

Memory Trick: FANBOYS

- **F - For** (Reason) → *I drank water, **for** I was thirsty.* (Formal English).
- **A - And** (Addition) → *Bread **and** butter.*
- **N - Nor** (Negative Addition) → *I don't drink, **nor** do I smoke.*
- **B - But** (Contrast) → *He is poor **but** happy.*
- **O - Or** (Option) → *Tea **or** Coffee?*
- **Y - Yet** (Contrast/Surprise) → *He ran fast, **yet** he lost.*
- **S - So** (Result) → *I was ill, **so** I slept.*

2.2 Subordinating Conjunctions (The Dependents)

These join a **Main Clause** to a **Dependent Clause**. They show a relationship (Time, Cause, Condition).

- *Examples:* Because, Since, Although, If, When, While, After, Before.
- *Sentence:* I will not go (Main) **because** it is raining (Dependent).

2.3 Correlative Conjunctions (The Pairs)

These always come in pairs. You cannot break them. **This is the most important section for exams.**

- Either... or
- Neither... nor
- Not only... but also
- Both... and
- No sooner... than
- Hardly... when

The "Deep Dive" into Correlative Pairs

In competitive exams, 60% of Conjunction errors come from this chapter.

Rule 1: The Rule of Pairs (Fixed Mapping)

You generally cannot change the partner of a conjunction.

First Part	Mandatory Partner	Exam Error (Trap)	Correct Usage
Though / Although	Yet (or Comma)	But	Although he is rich, yet he is miserly.
No Sooner	Than	When / Then	No sooner did I see him than I ran.
Hardly / Scarcely	When	Than / Then	Hardly had I reached when it rained.
Both	And	As well as	Both Ram and Shyam went.
Lest	Should	May / Will	Run fast lest you should miss the train.
Too	To	So... that	He is too weak to walk.
So	That	To	He is so weak that he cannot walk.
Between	And	To	Contact me between 9 AM and 5 PM.
From	To	And	He works from 9 AM to 5 PM.
Else	But	Than	It is nothing else but vanity.
Other / Rather	Than	But	I have no other choice than to go.

Rule 2: The Rule of Parallelism (The "Balance" Rule)

This is an Advanced Rule.

When using pairs like Either-Or, Neither-Nor, Not only-But also, the parts of speech following them must be the SAME.

➤ Logic:

- ✓ If "Not only" is followed by a **Noun**, "But also" must be followed by a **Noun**.
- ✓ If "Not only" is followed by a **Verb**, "But also" must be followed by a **Verb**.

➤ Exam Example (Wrong):

- ✓ He **not only lost** his ticket **but also** his luggage.
- ✓ *Analysis:* "Not only" is before "Lost" (Verb). "But also" is before "Luggage" (Noun). This is unbalanced.

➤ Correction (Right):

- ✓ He lost **not only** his ticket **but also** his luggage.
- ✓ *Analysis:* Now both are before Nouns (Ticket/Luggage).

Confusing Connectors (Nuance)

4.1 Until vs. Unless

- **Until:** Refers to **Time**. (Wait here until I come).
- **Unless:** Refers to **Condition**. (You will fail unless you study).
- **Exam Tip:** Both words are negative. Never use "Not" in the clause that starts with Until/Unless.
- *Wrong:* Unless you do **not** work hard...
- *Right:* Unless you work hard...

4.2 Since vs. For vs. Because (The "Reason" Battle)

- **Because:** The strongest way to show reason. Focus is on the reason.
- **Since / As:** Used when the reason is already known to the listener.
 - ✓ *Since* it is late, let's go home.
- **For:** Formal/Literary.
 - ✓ *I cannot tell a lie, for I am a knight.*

4.3 If vs. Whether

- **If:** Used for conditions. (*I will come if you call.*)
- **Whether:** Used for choice/uncertainty. Usually followed by "or". (*I don't know whether he will come or not.*)
 - ✓ **Rule:** After prepositions, use "Whether", never "If".
 - ✓ *Right:* It depends **on whether** (not *on if*) he accepts.

4.4 Like vs. As

- **Like:** Followed by a **Noun/Pronoun**.
 - ✓ *He fights like a tiger.*
- **As:** Followed by a **Clause (Subject + Verb)**.
 - ✓ *He fights as a tiger does.*

Special Syntax Rules (Spotting Errors)

Rule 1: The "Lest... Should" Negative Rule

"Lest" means "May it not happen that...". It is already negative.

1. **Partner:** Always usage **Should** (or just V1). Never use Will/May/Might.
2. **No "Not":** Never use "Not" with Lest.
 - ✓ *Wrong:* Work hard lest you **may** fail.
 - ✓ *Wrong:* Work hard lest you **should not** fail.
 - ✓ *Right:* Work hard **lest** you **should** fail.

Rule 2: "The Reason Why"

If a sentence starts with "The reason why...", do not use "Because" or "Due to" later. Use "**That**".

- **Wrong:** The reason why he failed is **because** he didn't study.
- **Right:** The reason why he failed is **that** he didn't study.

Rule 3: "Such" usage

- **Such... That:** Shows result/impact.
 - ✓ *It was **such** a cold night **that** I stopped driving.*
- **Such... As:** Shows category/example.
 - ✓ *I like **such** books **as** teach morality.*

Rule 4: Inversion with Connectors

If a sentence starts with *Hardly, Scarcely, No Sooner*, the Verb comes before the Subject.

- **Right:** **Hardly had I** closed the door when the bell rang.

Relative Conjunctions (Wh- Words)

Words like *Who, Which, That, Where* can act as conjunctions joining two clauses.

The "That" vs. "Which" War:

- **Which:** Adds extra information (Non-essential).
 - ✓ *My car, **which is red**, is parked outside. (Commas are used).*
- **That:** Adds essential information (Defining).
 - ✓ *The car **that is red** is mine. (No commas).*

Superlative Rule:

After Superlative Adjectives (Best, Worst) or words like All, Same, None, Nothing, always use That.

- **Wrong:** All **which** glitters is not gold.
- **Right:** All **that** glitters is not gold.
- **Right:** This is the **best** book **that** I have read.

Practice Exercise (The Trap Zone)

(Include 50 questions in your PDF. Here are critical examples).

Q1: He asked me that why I was late.

- **Error:** Double Conjunction. "That" and "Why" cannot be used together in indirect speech.
- **Ans:** He asked me **why** I was late. (Remove 'that').

Q2: Neither he comes nor he writes.

- **Error:** Parallelism. "Neither" is before Subject (he), "Nor" is before Subject (he). Wait... strictly speaking, standard English prefers:
- **Better:** He **neither comes nor writes**. (Neither before Verb, Nor before Verb).

Q3: Although he worked hard, but he failed.

- **Error:** "Although" pairs with "Yet" or a Comma. Never "But".
- **Ans:** Although he worked hard, **yet** he failed.

Q4: No sooner did the sun rise when the fog disappeared.

- **Error:** No sooner pairs with "Than".
- **Ans:** No sooner did the sun rise **than** the fog disappeared.

Q5: Run fast lest you will miss the bus.

- **Error:** Lest takes "Should".
- **Ans:** Run fast lest you **should** miss the bus.

Q6: Until the train does not get the signal, it will not run.

- **Error:** Until is negative. Remove "does not".
- **Ans:** Until the train **gets** the signal, it will not run.

Special Section 1: The "First Subject" Rule (As well as / Along with)

In English Grammar, usually, the verb matches the subject closest to it. However, there is a specific family of Conjunctions where this logic is **reversed**. This is the most common trap in Subject-Verb Agreement.

The Rule

When two subjects are joined by "**As well as**" (or similar words listed below), the Verb must agree with the **FIRST SUBJECT**. Ignore the second subject completely.

The List of Connectors

This rule applies to all these connectors:

1. As well as
2. Along with
3. Together with
4. With
5. In addition to
6. And not
7. Accompanied by
8. Like / Unlike
9. But / Except (when used as prepositions)

Detailed Examples & Logic

Example 1: Singular First Subject

- *Sentence:* **Ram**, as well as his friends, **is** coming.
- *Logic:*
 - ✓ Subject 1: **Ram** (Singular) → **BOSS**
 - ✓ Connector: As well as
 - ✓ Subject 2: Friends (Plural) → Ignore this.
 - ✓ **Result:** Since Ram is singular, we use **IS** (not Are).

Example 2: Plural First Subject

- *Sentence:* **The soldiers**, along with the commander, **were** arrested.
- *Logic:*
 - ✓ Subject 1: **Soldiers** (Plural) → **BOSS**
 - ✓ Connector: Along with
 - ✓ Subject 2: Commander (Singular) → Ignore this.
 - ✓ **Result:** Since Soldiers is plural, we use **WERE** (not Was).

Example 3: Pronoun Confusion

- *Sentence:* **I**, unlike him, **am** honest.
- *Logic:*
 - ✓ Subject 1: **I** → **BOSS**
 - ✓ Subject 2: Him
 - ✓ **Result:** Verb for "I" is **am** (not is).

Special Section 2: Master Chart of Fixed Pairs & Connectors

Chart A: The Fixed Correlative Pairs

Instructions: You must memorize these. If the first half is present, the second half must match.

First Word	Mandatory Partner	Hindi Meaning (Concept)	Example Sentence
Though / Although	Yet (or Comma)	Haalaanki... Fir bhi	Although he is poor, yet he is honest.
No Sooner	Than	Jaise hi... waise hi	No sooner did I see him than I ran.
Hardly / Scarcely	When	Mushkil se... ki tabhi	Hardly had I reached when it rained.
Lest	Should	Kahi aisa na ho ki	Walk carefully lest you should fall.
Too	To	Itna... ki (Negative)	He is too weak to walk.

So	That	Itna... ki (Result)	He is so weak that he cannot walk.
Between	And	Iske aur uske beech	Meet me between 4 PM and 5 PM.
From	To	Yahan se wahan tak	He works from morning to evening.
Else	But	Iske alawa kuch nahi	It is nothing else but love.
Other / Rather	Than	Bajaye iske	I would rather die than beg.
Not only	But also	Na kewal... balki yeh bhi	He is not only a singer but also a dancer.

Chart B: Prepositions vs. Conjunctions (The "Because" Trap)

Many students confuse connecting phrases. This table clarifies the difference.

Meaning	Use Conjunction (Followed by Subject + Verb)	Use Preposition (Followed by Noun/Ing)
Reason	Because / As / Since <i>I didn't go because I was ill.</i>	Because of / Due to / On account of <i>I didn't go because of illness.</i>
Contrast	Although / Though <i>* Although it rained, we played.*</i>	In spite of / Despite <i>* Despite the rain, we played.*</i>
Condition	Unless <i>* Unless you work, you will fail.*</i>	But for / Without <i>* Without work, you will fail.*</i>

Special Section 3: "Hinglish" Explanations for Deep Understanding

1. Until vs. Unless

Both mean "Jab tak nahi" (Negative), but the situation is different.

- **Until = Time Oriented (Jab tak samay nahi hota).**
 - ✓ *Hindi:* Jab tak train nahi aati, wait karo.
 - ✓ *English:* Wait **until** the train arrives.
- **Unless = Action/Condition Oriented (Jab tak tum action nahi loge).**
 - ✓ *Hindi:* Jab tak tum padhoge nahi, pass nahi hoga.
 - ✓ *English:* You will not pass **unless** you study.

2. Lest (The Negative Warning)

- **Hindi Meaning:** "Kahi aisa na ho ki..."
- **Concept:** It implies a fear or warning.
- **Rule:** Because "Na" is already in the Hindi meaning, we **never** use "Not" in English with Lest.
- **Example:** Bhaago kahi aisa na ho ki bus miss ho jaye.
 - ✓ *Right:* Run fast **lest** you **should** miss the bus.

3. Since (Time vs. Reason)

"Since" has two meanings in Hindi.

- **Meaning A (Time):** "Jab se"
 - ✓ *Usage:* Used with Point of Time (Perfect Tense).
 - ✓ *Example:* Main use **tab se** janta hu jab wo baccha tha.
 - ✓ *English:* I have known him **since** he was a child.
- **Meaning B (Reason):** "Chunki / Kyunki"
 - ✓ *Usage:* Used to give a reason everyone knows.
 - ✓ *Example:* **Chunki** tum mere dost ho, main madad karunga.
 - ✓ *English:* **Since** you are my friend, I will help you.

4. While (Duration vs. Contrast)

- **Meaning A (Time/Duration):** "Jab / Jis dauran"
 - ✓ *Example:* **Jab** main so raha tha, wo padh raha tha.
 - ✓ *English:* **While** I was sleeping, he was studying.

-
- **Meaning B (Contrast):** "Jabki"
 - ✓ *Example:* Ram ameer hai **jabki** uska bhai gareeb hai.
 - ✓ *English:* Ram is rich **while** his brother is poor.

5. Each Other vs. One Another

- **Each Other:** "Aapas mein" (Only for **2 people/things**).
 - ✓ *Hindi:* Do bhai aapas mein ladd rahe hain.
 - ✓ *English:* The two brothers are fighting with **each other**.
- **One Another:** "Aapas mein" (For **more than 2**).
 - ✓ *Hindi:* Paanch dost aapas mein baat kar rahe hain.
 - ✓ *English:* The five friends are talking to **one another**.

Articles and Determiners

I. Introduction: The Foundation of Noun Specificity

Articles and determiners serve as fundamental building blocks in English grammar, providing essential information about the nouns they accompany. These small but powerful words function primarily to specify whether a noun is being presented as general or specific, known or unknown to the audience. They modify, describe, introduce, or limit nouns, clarifying their reference or indicating quantity. Understanding determiners is crucial because they form a foundational layer in noun phrases, establishing the noun's identity and scope within the sentence's context *before* descriptive details are added.

Here I provide a comprehensive study of articles and determiners. It begins by defining articles and their core functions, then expands to the broader category of determiners, detailing their various types and usage rules, particularly concerning noun agreement. Special cases, exceptions, and common errors are addressed.

II. Understanding Articles: The Core Determiners

A. Defining Articles (a, an, the)

The English language utilizes three core articles: **a**, **an**, and **the**. These words belong to the larger class of determiners (and are sometimes classified as adjectives or noun markers). Their primary function is to signal the **definiteness** or **specificity** of the noun they modify, indicating whether the noun refers to a particular entity or any member of a category.

B. Indefinite Articles (a, an): Referring to the General

Definition: The words **a** and **an** are known as the **indefinite articles**. They are used when referring to a **non-specific, non-particular, or generic** member of a group or category. They signal that the noun is indefinite, referring to *any* member of a group rather than a specific one.

Usage - Singular Countable Nouns: A crucial rule is that **a** and **an** are primarily used only with **singular countable nouns** – nouns that represent one item that can be counted.

- *Examples:* *a dog, an elephant, a teacher, a university, an hour.*
- Rule: 'a' vs. 'an' (Sound-Based Choice):** The selection between **a** and **an** depends entirely on the **initial sound** (not the written letter) of the word that immediately follows the article. This rule facilitates smoother pronunciation.
- Use **'a'** before words beginning with a **consonant sound**: *a boy, a car, a dog, a house, a European country* (starts with a 'y' sound), *a university* (starts with a 'y' sound), *a user* (starts with a 'y' sound), *a one-way street* (starts with a 'w' sound).
- Use **'an'** before words beginning with a **vowel sound** (a, e, i, o, u sounds): *an apple, an egg, an idea, an umbrella, an hour* (silent 'h'), *an honor, an MBA* (starts with an 'e' sound), *an LCD display*.
- If an adjective comes between the article and the noun, the choice depends on the **adjective's initial sound**: *a broken egg* (consonant sound 'b'), *an unusual problem* (vowel sound 'u').

Functions:

- **Introducing something for the first time:** When a noun is mentioned initially in a text or conversation, **a/an** is typically used. *Example: I saw **a** movie last night..*
- **Referring to 'any' member of a group:** Signifies one of many possibilities, not a specific one. *Examples: My daughter really wants **a** dog for Christmas. (Any dog) ; Can you sing **a** song for me? (Any song).*
- **Defining professions or group membership:** Used before nouns indicating jobs, nationalities, religions, etc.. *Examples: She is **a** doctor. ; He's **an** architect. ; Brian is **an** Irishman..*
- **Generic statements (defining a class):** Can be used to make a statement about any member representing a whole category. *Example: **An** elephant is an impressive sight. (Meaning this is characteristic of all elephants).*
- **Restrictions:** Indefinite articles are **not** used with **plural nouns** (~~a~~ books) or **uncountable nouns** (nouns representing things that cannot typically be counted, like *information, advice, water, furniture, jewelry, luggage*). Instead of ~~an~~ *advice*, one might say *advice* or *a piece of advice*.

C. Definite Article (the): Referring to the Specific

Definition: The word **the** is the **definite article**. It is used to refer to **specific, particular, or unique** nouns that are assumed to be identifiable by the listener or reader. It signals that the noun is definite.

Usage - All Noun Types: Unlike indefinite articles, **the** can be used with **singular countable nouns, plural countable nouns, and uncountable nouns**, provided the reference is specific or particular.

Functions:

- **Referring to something already mentioned:** Once a noun has been introduced (often with **a/an**), subsequent references typically use **the** because its identity is now established. *Example: I saw **a** movie last night. **The** movie was entertaining..*
- **Referring to something unique or one-of-a-kind:** Used for nouns where there is only one instance in the relevant context. *Examples: **the** sun, **the** moon, **the** Earth, **the** internet, **the** sky, **the** Pope, **the** Equator, **the** North Pole.*
- **Referring to something specific by context or modifiers:** When the noun's identity is made clear by the surrounding words (like a defining relative clause or prepositional phrase) or the situation. *Examples: **The** dog that bit me ran away.; Can I borrow **the** book on the table? ; **The** information in your files is correct. ; I ate **the** pizza that was in the fridge..*
- **Referring to specific groups or classes:** Used with certain adjectives or family names to denote a group. *Examples: **The** rich should pay more taxes. (Rich people as a group); **The** poor need help. (Poor people as a group); **The** Browns live next door. (The Brown family).*
- **Generic reference (representing a concept/prototype):** Used with a singular countable noun to talk about the abstract concept or the typical representative of a class. *Example: **The** elephant can live for over sixty years. (Referring to the species/concept 'elephant').* This differs subtly from using 'an elephant' to define a characteristic of any member.
- **Specific geographical features:** Used with names of rivers, oceans, seas, mountain ranges, deserts, etc. (See Section V.C for details).
- **Musical instruments:** When talking about playing an instrument. *Example: She plays **the** piano.*
- **Superlatives and ordinal numbers:** Used before superlative adjectives (e.g., *most popular, tallest*) and ordinal numbers (e.g., *first, second, third*) when they modify a noun. *Examples: I just saw **the** most popular movie of the year. ; She is **the** tallest girl in the class. ; Adam was **the** first man..*

D. Key Differences Summarized

The choice between indefinite (**a/an**) and definite (**the**) articles fundamentally depends on **specificity** and the assumed **shared knowledge** between the speaker/writer and listener/reader. **A/an** introduces something new or refers to any non-specific instance, primarily with singular countable nouns. **The** points to a specific, identifiable entity (or entities), known from previous mention, context, uniqueness, or definition, and can be used with all types of nouns when specific.

This dynamic reflects a pragmatic aspect of communication: using **the** implies a belief that the audience can pinpoint the exact noun being discussed. For instance, "Let's read **the** book" suggests a particular book known to both parties, whereas "Let's read **a** book" suggests any book will suffice. The common pattern of using **a/an** for the first mention and **the** for subsequent mentions directly illustrates how shared knowledge is built within a discourse. Failure to use the correct article can disrupt this understanding, causing confusion about whether information is new/general or known/specific.

Table 1: Definite vs. Indefinite Articles Summary

Feature	Indefinite Article (a/an)	Definite Article (the)
Article(s)	a, an	the
Meaning/Specificity	Non-specific, general, any one member of a group, indefinite	Specific, particular, unique, identified, definite
Noun Compatibility	Singular Countable Nouns ONLY	Singular Countable Nouns, Plural Countable Nouns, Uncountable Nouns (when specific)
Usage Context	First mention, defining professions/groups, generic statements (defining characteristic), referring to 'any'	Subsequent mention, unique items, specific context, shared knowledge, superlatives/ordinals, specific geographical names, musical instruments, generic statements (concept/prototype)
Example (General)	<i>I need a pen.</i> (Any pen)	<i>Pass me the pen.</i> (The specific one we both see/know)
Example (Mention)	<i>She bought a car.</i>	<i>... The car is red.</i>
Example (Unique)	N/A	<i>The sun is bright.</i>

III. Introducing Determiners: The Broader Category

A. What are Determiners?

Determiners constitute a class of words that precede nouns or noun phrases. Their function is to modify, describe, or introduce the noun, clarifying its reference by indicating aspects such as **possession** (*my bike*), **quantity** (*two thieves*), **proximity** (*that book*), or **specificity** (*the answer*). They essentially "determine" or "limit" the noun they modify. Determiners typically appear before any descriptive adjectives that modify the same noun. For example: *her **new** job*, *this **big green** apple*.

It is useful to distinguish determiners from descriptive adjectives. While descriptive adjectives *add* qualities or details to a noun (e.g., *red, beautiful, old*), determiners work by *limiting* or *specifying* the noun's reference (a subtractive process). A practical distinction is that most descriptive adjectives can form comparatives and superlatives (*happy, happier, happiest*), whereas determiners generally cannot (*~ther~, ~my-er~, ~some-est~*). Although some traditional grammars might classify certain determiners (like demonstratives or possessives) as types of adjectives, many modern linguistic approaches treat determiners as a distinct word class due to their unique grammatical function and position. This terminological variation exists, but the core function of these words—to specify or limit a noun—remains consistent. Recognizing this limiting function is key, regardless of the specific label used.

B. Articles as Determiners

The articles **a**, **an**, and **the** are considered a primary and highly common type of determiner. They fit the definition perfectly, as they precede nouns and specify their definiteness.

C. Other Types of Determiners

Beyond articles, several other categories of words function as determiners:

- Demonstratives:** These determiners point out specific nouns, indicating their proximity relative to the speaker (near or far) or sometimes relative time (recent or distant). The demonstrative determiners are:
 - this** (singular, near): ***This** cup is chipped.*
 - that** (singular, far): *Remember **that** hotel in Prague?*

- **these** (plural, near): *These carrots are delicious!*
 - **those** (plural, far): *In those days, Enid wore bright colors.* It's important to distinguish demonstrative determiners, which modify a following noun (*this book*), from demonstrative pronouns, which stand alone and replace a noun (*I want this.*).
2. **Possessives:** These indicate ownership, possession, or a close relationship involving the noun. The possessive determiners are: **my, your, his, her, its, our, their, whose.**
- Examples: *my shirt, your ideas, his partner, her cat, its leaves, our fajitas, their house, whose shoes.* Possessive determiners inherently specify the noun, thus replacing articles; one cannot say *~the my~ car*. They differ from possessive pronouns (**mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, theirs**), which stand alone (*The book is mine.* vs. *My book is here.*).
3. **Quantifiers:** These specify the quantity or amount of the noun. This is a large category including words like: **some, any, many, much, (a) few, (a) little, several, all, each, every, both, half, enough, no, plenty of, lots of, a lot of, most (of the).**
- Examples: *some apples, any bugs, many cheeses, much money, few things, a little help, several movies, all groceries, enough potatoes, no squirrels, plenty of mountains.* The choice of quantifier often depends on whether the noun is countable or uncountable (detailed in Section IV). Note the overlap: words like 'all', 'each', 'both', 'half' also fit into the 'Distributives' category below, reflecting their dual function in expressing quantity and distribution.

What are Quantifiers?

Quantifiers are determiners that specify the quantity or amount of a noun. They answer questions like "How much?" or "How many?". Choosing the correct quantifier depends primarily on whether the noun is **countable** (can be counted, e.g., *apples, chairs, ideas*) or **uncountable** (cannot be counted individually, e.g., *water, information, furniture*).

Categorizing Quantifiers by Noun Type:

1. Used ONLY with Countable Nouns:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------|
| ✓ many | ✓ each |
| ✓ (a) few / the few | ✓ every |
| ✓ several | ✓ both |

2. Used ONLY with Uncountable Nouns:

- ✓ much
- ✓ (a) little / the little

3. Used with BOTH Countable and Uncountable Nouns:

- | | |
|----------|-----------------|
| ✓ some | ✓ no |
| ✓ any | ✓ plenty of |
| ✓ all | ✓ lots of |
| ✓ half | ✓ a lot of |
| ✓ enough | ✓ most (of the) |

Detailed Explanations and Comparisons:

1. Quantifiers for Countable Nouns Only

➤ Many:

- ✓ Meaning: A large quantity.
- ✓ Usage: Often used in questions and negative statements. In affirmative statements, especially informal ones, "a lot of" or "lots of" is often preferred, though "many" is still correct, especially in formal contexts.
- ✓ Examples:
 - *Were there many people at the concert?*
 - *She doesn't have many friends here.*
 - *Many delegates attended the conference.* (Formal affirmative)
 - *He has a lot of books.* (More common informal affirmative than "He has many books.")

➤ **Few / A Few / The Few:**

- ✓ **A Few:** Means a small number, some (positive connotation). Implies "some, but not many".
 - *I have **a few** apples left. Would you like one?* (Means I have *some* apples)
- ✓ **Few:** Means very small number, almost none (negative connotation). Implies "not many, perhaps fewer than expected or desired".
 - ***Few** people understand the complex theory.* (Means *not many* people understand it)
- ✓ **The Few:** Refers to the small, specific number of people or things already mentioned or implied.
 - *He thanked **the few** supporters who had stood by him.* (Referring to a specific, small group)
- ✓ Comparison: *A few* = some; *Few* = not many/almost none.

➤ **Several:**

- ✓ Meaning: More than two or three, but not a large number. It's generally more than "a few" but less than "many".
- ✓ Usage: Used in affirmative statements.
- ✓ Example: **Several** cars were parked outside.

➤ **Each / Every:**

- ✓ **Each:** Refers to individual items within a group (often a smaller, specific group). Used with singular countable nouns. Focuses on individuality.
 - ***Each** student received a certificate.* (Focuses on them one by one)
 - *He gave **each** child a gift.*
- ✓ **Every:** Refers to all members of a group collectively (often a larger, more general group). Used with singular countable nouns. Focuses on the group as a whole.
 - ***Every** citizen has the right to vote.* (Focuses on all members of the group 'citizens')
 - *I enjoyed **every** minute of the holiday.*
- ✓ Comparison: *Each* emphasizes individuality within a group; *Every* emphasizes the totality of the group. *Each* can be used for two or more items, while *Every* is typically used for three or more.

➤ **Both:**

- ✓ Meaning: Refers to two items together.
- ✓ Usage: Used with plural countable nouns when referring specifically to two entities.
- ✓ Example: **Both** answers are correct.

2. Quantifiers for Uncountable Nouns Only

➤ **Much:**

- ✓ Meaning: A large quantity.
- ✓ Usage: Primarily used in questions and negative statements. Like "many," "a lot of" is often preferred in affirmative statements.
- ✓ Examples:
 - *How **much** money do you have?*
 - *There isn't **much** sugar left.*
 - *He doesn't have **much** experience.*
 - *She drinks **a lot of** coffee.* (More common affirmative than "She drinks much coffee.")

➤ **Little / A Little / The Little:**

- ✓ **A Little:** Means a small amount, some (positive connotation).
 - *There's **a little** milk left; enough for coffee.* (Means there is *some* milk)
- ✓ **Little:** Means a very small amount, almost none (negative connotation). Implies "not much, perhaps less than expected or desired".
 - *We have **little** time to prepare.* (Means *not much* time)
- ✓ **The Little:** Refers to the small, specific amount already mentioned or implied.
 - *He spent **the little** money he had saved.* (Referring to a specific, small amount)
- ✓ Comparison: *A little* = some; *Little* = not much/almost none.

3. Quantifiers for Both Countable and Uncountable Nouns

➤ **Some:**

- ✓ Meaning: An unspecified amount or number.
- ✓ Usage: Generally used in affirmative sentences. Also used in questions that are offers or requests, or when expecting a "yes" answer.
- ✓ Examples:
 - *I need **some** apples.* (Countable)
 - *Would you like **some** coffee?* (Uncountable - Offer)
 - *Could I have **some** information?* (Uncountable - Request)
 - *There is **some** water in the bottle.* (Uncountable)

➤ **Any:**

- ✓ Meaning: One, some, or every; often implies an open, non-specific choice or zero amount.
- ✓ Usage: Generally used in questions and negative statements. Also used in affirmative sentences with words like 'hardly', 'never', 'without', or to mean 'it doesn't matter which'.
- ✓ Examples:
 - *Do you have **any** questions?* (Countable - Question)
 - *Is there **any** milk left?* (Uncountable - Question)
 - *I don't have **any** pens.* (Countable - Negative)
 - *She didn't give me **any** advice.* (Uncountable - Negative)
 - *You can take **any** bus; they all go downtown.* (Affirmative - 'it doesn't matter which')
 - *There's hardly **any** sugar left.* (Affirmative with 'hardly')

➤ **Some vs. Any Comparison:**

- ✓ Affirmative: Use *Some* (*I have some friends. / I need some help.*)
- ✓ Negative: Use *Any* (*I don't have any friends. / I don't need any help.*)
- ✓ General Questions: Use *Any* (*Do you have any friends? / Do you need any help?*)
- ✓ Offers/Requests/Expecting Yes: Use *Some* (*Would you like some tea? / Could I borrow some money?*)

➤ **All:**

- ✓ Meaning: The entire quantity or number.
- ✓ Usage: Refers to the whole group or amount. Can be used with 'the' or possessives (*all the books, all my money*).
- ✓ Examples:
 - *All children need love.* (Countable)
 - *I spent **all** the money.* (Uncountable)
 - *All the lights were off.* (Countable)

➤ **Half:**

- ✓ Meaning: 50% of a quantity or number.
- ✓ Usage: Often used with 'of' before determiners (the, my, this) or pronouns (*half of the cake, half of them*). Can sometimes be used directly before the noun (*half price, half an hour*).
- ✓ Examples:
 - *Half (of) the students failed the exam.* (Countable)
 - *He drank half (of) the juice.* (Uncountable)
 - *Wait half an hour.* (With article)

➤ **Enough:**

- ✓ Meaning: Sufficient quantity or number; as much or as many as needed.
- ✓ Usage: Can come before the noun or after an adjective/adverb.
- ✓ Examples:
 - *Are there enough chairs?* (Countable)
 - *I don't have enough time.* (Uncountable)
 - *Is the coffee hot enough?* (After adjective)

- **No:**
 - ✓ Meaning: Not any, zero quantity.
 - ✓ Usage: Used in affirmative sentence structure but gives a negative meaning. Equivalent to 'not... any'.
 - ✓ Examples:
 - *There are **no** tickets left.* (= There aren't any tickets left.) (Countable)
 - *I have **no** money.* (= I don't have any money.) (Uncountable)
- **Plenty of / Lots of / A lot of:**
 - ✓ Meaning: A large quantity or number. Generally interchangeable. "Lots of" and "a lot of" are often considered slightly more informal than "plenty of" or "many/much".
 - ✓ Usage: Used in affirmative sentences. Can replace "many" and "much" in positive contexts.
 - ✓ Examples:
 - *There are **plenty of / lots of / a lot of** reasons to be careful.* (Countable)
 - *Don't rush, there's **plenty of / lots of / a lot of** time.* (Uncountable)
 - *She has **a lot of** friends.* (Countable - more common than 'many' here)
 - *He drinks **lots of** water.* (Uncountable - more common than 'much' here)
- **Most (of the):**
 - ✓ Meaning: The majority, nearly all.
 - ✓ Usage:
 - **Most** + Noun (general statement): ***Most** people enjoy music.* (Countable) / ***Most** information is available online.* (Uncountable)
 - **Most of the/my/these** + Noun (specific group): ***Most of the** students passed.* / *He ate **most of the** cake.*
 - ✓ Comparison: *Most* refers to a majority in general; *Most of the...* refers to a majority of a specific, defined group.

Quick Comparison Summary Table

Quantifier	Used With	Typical Usage	Meaning
Many	Countable (Plural)	Questions, Negatives (Affirmative = formal)	Large number
Much	Uncountable	Questions, Negatives	Large amount
A Lot of / Lots of	Both	Affirmatives (Informal alternative to many/much)	Large number/amount
Plenty of	Both	Affirmatives	Large/Sufficient qty
Some	Both	Affirmatives, Offers/Requests	Unspecified qty
Any	Both	Questions, Negatives, 'It doesn't matter which'	One, zero, any
(A) Few / Few	Countable (Plural)	A Few (+): some; Few (-): not many	Small number
(A) Little / Little	Uncountable	A Little (+): some; Little (-): not much	Small amount
Several	Countable (Plural)	Affirmatives	More than a few
Each	Countable (Singular)	Affirmatives (Focus on individual)	Every one separately
Every	Countable (Singular)	Affirmatives (Focus on group total)	All members
Both	Countable (Plural)	Refers to two	The two
All	Both	Refers to total quantity/number	The whole/total
Half	Both	Refers to 50%	50%
Enough	Both	Affirmatives, Questions, Negatives	Sufficient qty
No	Both	Affirmative structure, Negative meaning	Zero qty
Most / Most of	Both	Most = general; Most of = specific group	The majority