

12.2 Articles and Demonstratives

Key Information

The words *a*, *an*, and *the* are special kinds of adjectives called **articles**. Use *the* to point out a particular item or items.

Marmosets are **the** smallest monkey.

Use *a* or *an* to point out one item in a group. *A* appears before words that begin with a consonant sound. *An* appears before words that begin with a vowel sound.

A marmoset can fit in **an** adult's hand.

This, *that*, *these*, and *those* are **demonstrative adjectives**. They point out specific things.

This book is well written.

This, *that*, *these*, and *those* can also stand alone in a sentence as **demonstrative pronouns** (subjects or objects).

This is my bag of marbles.

Bring **those** along.

■ A. Using Articles

For each sentence, underline the correct article in parentheses.

1. Ms. Rodriguez is (a, an) science teacher.
2. Have you had her for (a, the) teacher?
3. Some kids say she is the hardest teacher in (a, the) school.
4. She gives (a, an) exam every week.
5. I think she is (a, an) good teacher.
6. Her class is hard, but she makes science (a, the) fun subject.

■ B. Using Demonstratives

For each sentence, underline the correct demonstrative word in parentheses.

1. I recently saw (that, those) movie.
2. It was showing at (that, those) new theater.
3. I went with (that, those) kids from school.
4. (This, These) actors play their parts well.
5. (This, These) was the third film I've seen starring Mel Gibson.
6. He had the best role in (this, these) film.

12.3 Adjectives That Compare

Key Information

Use the **comparative** form of an adjective to compare two things. You usually form the comparative for short adjectives by adding **-er** to the adjective.

Whales are **bigger** than elephants.

You usually add *more* before the adjective to form the comparative form of adjectives with two or more syllables.

Are whales **more intelligent** than elephants?

Use the **superlative** form of an adjective to compare more than two things.

Add **-est** to short adjectives to form the superlative.

Whales are the **biggest** animals on Earth.

Add the word **most** before longer adjectives.

Are whales the **most intelligent** animals?

■ A. Choosing the Comparative or Superlative Form

Underline the correct form of the adjective in the parentheses.

1. Amanda is the (faster, fastest) runner I know.
2. Ronald used to be (faster, fastest) than Amanda.
3. Now Ronald tries (harder, hardest) than before.
4. Good sportsmanship is (most important, more important) than winning.
5. I like to run when it is (colder, coldest) than today.
6. Amanda wants to be (most famous, more famous) than any other runner.

■ B. Using the Comparative and Superlative Forms

Write the correct comparative or superlative form of the adjective in parentheses.

1. That play was (difficult) to understand than the others. _____
2. August is the (warm) month of the year. _____
3. Karen's gift was the (thoughtful) of all. _____
4. This river is (muddy) than the Mississippi. _____
5. My brother's hair is (curly) than mine. _____
6. That test was the (difficult) of all. _____
7. Yesterday's game was (exciting) than last week's. _____
8. This book is (easy) to read than that one. _____