

## A/an and the

A

Study this example:

I had **a sandwich** and **an apple** for lunch.

**The sandwich** wasn't very good, but **the apple** was nice.



JOE

KAREN

Joe says '**a** sandwich', '**an** apple' because this is the first time he talks about them.

Joe now says '**the** sandwich', '**the** apple' because Karen knows which sandwich and which apple he means – **the** sandwich and **the** apple that he had for lunch.

Compare **a** and **the** in these examples:

- ☐ **A man** and **a woman** were sitting opposite me. **The man** was American, but I think **the woman** was British.
- ☐ When we were on holiday, we stayed at **a hotel**. Sometimes we ate at **the hotel** and sometimes we went to **a restaurant**.

B

We use **the** when we are thinking of a specific thing. Compare **a/an** and **the**:

- ☐ Tim sat down on **a chair**. (perhaps one of many chairs in the room)  
Tim sat down on **the chair nearest the door**. (a specific chair)
- ☐ Paula is looking for **a job**. (not a specific job)  
Did Paula get **the job she applied for**? (a specific job)
- ☐ Do you have **a car**? (not a specific car)  
I cleaned **the car** yesterday. (= my car)

C

We use **the** when it is clear in the situation which thing or person we mean. For example, in a room we talk about **the light** / **the floor** / **the ceiling** / **the door** / **the carpet** etc. :

- ☐ Can you turn off **the light**, please? (= the light in this room)
- ☐ I took a taxi to **the station**. (= the station in that town)
- ☐ (*in a shop*) I'd like to speak to **the manager**, please. (= the manager of this shop)

In the same way, we say (go to) **the bank** / **the post office**:

- ☐ I have to go to **the bank** and then I'm going to **the post office**.  
(The speaker is usually thinking of a specific bank or post office.)

We also say (go to) **the doctor** / **the dentist**:

- ☐ Clare isn't very well. She's gone to **the doctor**. (= her usual doctor)
- ☐ I don't like going to **the dentist**.

Compare **the** and **a**:

- ☐ I have to go to **the bank** today.  
Is there **a bank** near here?
- ☐ I don't like going to **the dentist**.  
My sister is **a dentist**.

D

We say 'once **a week** / three times **a day** / £1.50 **a kilo**' etc. :

- ☐ 'How often do you go to the cinema?' 'About once **a month**.'
- ☐ 'How much are those potatoes?' '£1.50 **a kilo**.'
- ☐ Helen works eight hours **a day**, six days **a week**.

**72.1** Put in a/an or the.

- 1 This morning I bought a newspaper and a magazine. The newspaper is in my bag, but I can't remember where I put the magazine.
- 2 I saw a accident this morning. A car crashed into a tree. The driver of the car wasn't hurt, but the car was badly damaged.
- 3 There are two cars parked outside: a blue one and a grey one. The blue one belongs to my neighbours; I don't know who the owner of the grey one is.
- 4 My friends live in a old house in a small village. There is a beautiful garden behind the house. I would like to have a garden like that.

**72.2** Put in **a/an** or **the**.

- 1 a This house is very nice. Has it got ..... garden?  
b It's a beautiful day. Let's sit in ..... garden.  
c I like living in this house, but it's a shame that ..... garden is so small.
- 2 a Can you recommend ..... good restaurant?  
b We had dinner in ..... very nice restaurant.  
c We had dinner in ..... best restaurant in town.
- 3 a She has ..... French name, but in fact she's English, not French.  
b What's ..... name of that man we met yesterday?  
c We stayed at a very nice hotel – I can't remember ..... name now.
- 4 a There isn't ..... airport near where I live. .... nearest airport is 70 miles away.  
b Our flight was delayed. We had to wait at ..... airport for three hours.  
c Excuse me, please. Can you tell me how to get to ..... airport?
- 5 a 'Are you going away next week?' 'No, ..... week after next.'  
b I'm going away for ..... week in September.  
c Gary has a part-time job. He works three mornings ..... week.

**72.3** Put in a/an or the where necessary.

- 1 Would you like apple?
- 2 How often do you go to dentist?
- 3 Could you close door, please?
- 4 I'm sorry. I didn't mean to do that. It was mistake.
- 5 Excuse me, where is bus station, please?
- 6 I have problem. Can you help me?
- 7 I'm just going to post office. I won't be long.
- 8 There were no chairs, so we sat on floor
- 9 Have you finished with book I lent you?
- 10 My sister has just got job in bank in Zurich.
- 11 We live in small apartment in city centre.
- 12 There's supermarket at end of street I live in.

Would you like an apple?

**72.4** Answer these questions about yourself. Where possible, use the structure in Section D (once a week / three times a day etc.).

- 1 How often do you go to the cinema? *Three or four times a year.*
- 2 How often do you go to the cinema?
- 3 How often do you go away on holiday?
- 4 What's the usual speed limit in towns in your country?
- 5 How much sleep do you need?
- 6 How often do you go out in the evening?
- 7 How much television do you watch (on average)?
- 8 How much does it cost to rent a small car in your country?

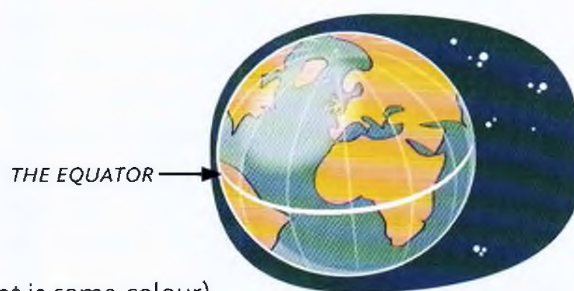


## The 1

A

We use **the** when there is only one of something:

- ☐ Have you ever crossed **the equator**?  
(there is only one equator)
- ☐ What's **the longest river in Europe**?
- ☐ Our apartment is on **the tenth floor**.
- ☐ Buenos Aires is **the capital of Argentina**.
- ☐ I'm going away at **the end of this month**.

We use **the** before **same** (**the same**):

- ☐ Your sweater is **the same** colour as mine. (*not* is same colour)
- ☐ 'Are these keys **the same**?' 'No, they're different.'

B

We say:

<b>the sun</b>	<b>the moon</b>	<b>the earth</b>	<b>the world</b>	<b>the universe</b>
<b>the sky</b>	<b>the sea</b>	<b>the ground</b>	<b>the environment</b>	<b>the internet</b>

- ☐ I love to look at the stars in **the sky**. (*not* in sky)
- ☐ **The internet** has changed the way we live.
- ☐ We need to do more to protect **the environment**. (= the natural world around us)
- ☐ **The earth** goes round **the sun**, and **the moon** goes round **the earth**.

We also use '**Earth**' (without **the**) when we think of it as a planet in space (like **Mars**, **Jupiter** etc.).

- ☐ Which planet is nearest **Earth**?

We say **space** (without **the**) when we mean 'space in the universe'. Compare

- ☐ There are millions of stars **in space**. (*not* in the space)
- ☐ I tried to park my car, but **the space** was too small.

We use **a/an** to say what kind of thing something is (see Unit 71B). Compare **the** and **a**:

- ☐ **The** sun is **a** star. (= one of many stars)
- ☐ **The** hotel we stayed at was **a** very nice hotel.

C

We say: (go to) **the cinema**, **the theatre**.

- ☐ I go to **the cinema** a lot, but I haven't been to **the theatre** for ages.

When we say **the cinema** / **the theatre**, we do not necessarily mean a specific cinema or theatre.We usually say **the radio**, but **television/TV** (without **the**). Compare:

- ☐ I listen to **the radio** a lot. *but* I watch **television** a lot.
- ☐ We heard it on **the radio**. *but* We watched it on **TV**.

**The television** / **the TV** = the television set:

- ☐ Can you turn off **the television**, please?

D

We do not normally use **the** with **breakfast/lunch/dinner**:

- ☐ What did you have for **breakfast**?
- ☐ We had **lunch** in a very nice restaurant.

But we use **a/an** if we say 'a **big** lunch', 'a **wonderful** dinner', 'an **early** breakfast' etc. :

- ☐ We had **a very nice lunch**. (*not* We had very nice lunch)

E

We do *not* use **the** before *noun + number*. For example, we say:

- ☐ Our train leaves from **Platform 5**. (*not* the Platform 5)
- ☐ (*in a shop*) Do you have these shoes in **size 43**? (*not* the size 43)

In the same way, we say: **Room 126** (in a hotel), **page 29** (of a book), **question 3** (in an exam), **Gate 10** (at an airport) etc.

## Exercises

**73.1** Put in **the** or **a** where necessary. If no word is necessary, leave the space empty.

- 1 A: Our apartment is on the tenth floor.  
B: Is it? I hope there's a lift.
- 2 A: Did you have \_\_\_\_\_ nice holiday?  
B: Yes, it was \_\_\_\_\_ best holiday I've ever had.
- 3 A: Where's \_\_\_\_\_ nearest shop?  
B: There's one at \_\_\_\_\_ end of this street.
- 4 A: It's \_\_\_\_\_ lovely day, isn't it?  
B: Yes, there isn't \_\_\_\_\_ cloud in \_\_\_\_\_ sky.
- 5 A: I've got a problem with my computer. It isn't connecting to \_\_\_\_\_ internet.  
B: That's interesting. I've got \_\_\_\_\_ same problem with mine.
- 6 A: We spent all our money because we stayed at \_\_\_\_\_ most expensive hotel in town.  
B: Why didn't you stay at \_\_\_\_\_ cheaper hotel?
- 7 A: Would you like to travel in \_\_\_\_\_ space?  
B: Yes, I'd love to go to \_\_\_\_\_ moon.
- 8 A: What's Jupiter? Is it \_\_\_\_\_ star?  
B: No, it's \_\_\_\_\_ planet. It's \_\_\_\_\_ largest planet in \_\_\_\_\_ solar system.

**73.2** Put in **the** where necessary. If you don't need **the**, leave the space empty.

- 1 I haven't been to the cinema for ages.
- 2 Sarah spends most of her free time watching \_\_\_\_\_ TV.
- 3 Do you ever listen to \_\_\_\_\_ radio?
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ television was on, but nobody was watching it.
- 5 Have you had \_\_\_\_\_ dinner yet?
- 6 Lisa and I arrived at \_\_\_\_\_ same time.
- 7 What's \_\_\_\_\_ capital city of Canada?
- 8 What do you want for \_\_\_\_\_ breakfast?
- 9 I lay down on \_\_\_\_\_ ground and looked up at \_\_\_\_\_ sky.

**73.3** Put in **the** or **a** where necessary. (See Unit 72 for **a** and **the** if necessary.)

- 1 Sun is star. The sun is a star.
- 2 I'm fed up with doing same thing every day. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Room 25 is on second floor. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Moon goes round earth every 27 days. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 It was very hot day. It was hottest day of year. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 We had lunch in nice restaurant by sea. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 What's on at cinema this week? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 I like to eat good breakfast before I go to work. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 We missed our train because we were waiting on wrong platform. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Next train to London leaves from Platform 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 You'll find information you need at top of page 15. \_\_\_\_\_

**73.4** Complete the sentences using the following. Use **the** where necessary.

**breakfast**   **cinema**   ~~**dinner**~~   **gate**   **Gate 21**   **question 8**   **sea**

- 1 Are you going out this evening?' 'Yes, after dinner.'
- 2 There was no wind, so \_\_\_\_\_ was very calm.
- 3 The test wasn't too difficult, but I couldn't answer \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 'I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ tonight.' 'Are you? What film are you going to see?'
- 5 I didn't have time for \_\_\_\_\_ this morning because I was in a hurry.
- 6 Oh, \_\_\_\_\_ is open. I must have forgotten to shut it.
- 7 (airport announcement) Flight AB123 to Rome is now boarding at \_\_\_\_\_.



## The 2 (school / the school etc.)

A

Compare **school** and **the school**:

Ellie is ten years old. Every day she goes **to school**. She's **at school** now. **School** starts at 9 and finishes at 3.

We say a child goes **to school** or is **at school** (as a student). We are not thinking of a specific school. We are thinking of **school** as a general idea – children learning in a classroom.



Today Ellie's mother wants to speak to her daughter's teacher. So she has gone to **the school** to see her. She's at **the school** now.

Ellie's mother is not a student. She is not 'at school', she doesn't 'go to school'. If she wants to see Ellie's teacher, she goes to **the school** (=Ellie's school, a specific building).

B

We use **prison** (or **jail**), **hospital**, **university**, **college** and **church** in a similar way. We do not use **the** when we are thinking of the general idea of these places and what they are used for.

Compare:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ken's brother is <b>in prison</b> for robbery. (He is a prisoner. We are not thinking of a specific prison.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Joe had an accident last week. He was taken <b>to hospital</b>. He's still <b>in hospital</b> now. (as a patient)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> When I leave school, I plan to go <b>to university</b> / go <b>to college</b>. (as a student)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sally's father goes <b>to church</b> every Sunday. (to take part in a religious service)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ken went to <b>the prison</b> to visit his brother. (He went as a visitor, not as a prisoner.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Jane has gone to <b>the hospital</b> to visit Joe. She's at <b>the hospital</b> now. (as a visitor, not as a patient)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> I went to <b>the university</b> to meet Professor Thomas. (as a visitor, not as a student)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Some workmen went to <b>the church</b> to repair the roof. (not for a religious service)</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

With most other places, you need **the**. For example, **the station**, **the cinema**, (see Units 72C and 73C).

C

We say **go to bed** / **be in bed** etc. (*not the bed*):

- ☐ I'm going **to bed** now. Goodnight.
- ☐ Do you ever have breakfast **in bed**?

but ☐ I sat down on **the bed**. (a specific piece of furniture)

**go to work** / **be at work** / **start work** / **finish work** etc. (*not the work*):

- ☐ Chris didn't go to **work** yesterday.
- ☐ What time do you usually finish **work**?

**go home** / **come home** / **arrive home** / **get home** / **be at home** etc. :

- ☐ It's late. Let's go **home**.
- ☐ Will you be at **home** tomorrow afternoon?

D

We say **go to sea** / **be at sea** (without **the**) when the meaning is 'go/be on a voyage':

- ☐ Keith works on ships. He's **at sea** most of the time.

but ☐ I'd like to live near **the sea**.

- ☐ It can be dangerous to swim in **the sea**.

## Exercises

**74.1** Complete each sentence using a preposition (**to/at/in** etc.) + one of these words:

bed    home    ~~hospital~~    hospital    prison    school    university    work

- 1 Two people were injured in the accident and were taken to hospital.
- 2 In Britain, children from the age of five have to go .....
- 3 Mark didn't go out last night. He stayed .....
- 4 There is a lot of traffic in the morning when everybody is going .....
- 5 Kate's mother has just had an operation. She is still .....
- 6 When Sophie leaves school, she wants to study economics .....
- 7 Ben never gets up before 9 o'clock. It's 8.30 now, so he is still .....
- 8 If people commit crimes, they may be sent .....

**74.2** Complete the sentences with **school** or **the school**.

- 1 Why aren't your children at school today? Are they ill?
- 2 When he was younger, Tim hated .....
- 3 There were some parents waiting outside ..... to meet their children.
- 4 ..... usually starts at 8.30 in the morning.
- 5 A: How do your children get to and from ..... ? By bus?  
B: No, they walk. .... isn't very far.
- 6 What sort of job does Emily want to do when she leaves ..... ?

**74.3** Some of these sentences need **the**. Correct them where necessary.

- 1 a 'How old is university?' 'About 200 years.' the university  
b In your country do many people go to university? OK  
c If you want to get a degree, you normally have to study .....  
at university. ....  
d This is a small town, but university is the biggest in the country. ....
- 2 a My brother has always been healthy. He's never been in hospital. ....  
b When Ann was ill, I went to hospital to visit her. When I was .....  
there, I met Lisa who is a nurse at hospital. ....  
c A woman was injured in the accident and was taken to hospital. ....
- 3 a John's mother is a regular churchgoer. She goes to church every .....  
Sunday. ....  
b John himself doesn't go to church. ....  
c John went to church to take some pictures of the building. ....
- 4 a Why is she in prison? What did she do? .....  
b A few days ago firefighters were called to prison to put out a fire. ....  
c Do you think too many people are sent to prison? .....

**74.4** Which is correct?

- 1 How did you get home / ~~get to home~~ after the party? (get home is correct)
- 2 I like to read in bed / in the bed before I go to sleep.
- 3 Shall we meet after work / after the work tomorrow evening?
- 4 I love swimming in sea / in the sea.
- 5 It's nice to travel around, but there's no place like home / like the home!
- 6 Sam likes to go to bed / go to the bed early, and get up early.
- 7 I didn't sleep well in the hotel. Bed / The bed was uncomfortable.
- 8 How long did it take to cross the ocean? How long were you at sea / at the sea?
- 9 What time do you usually start work / the work in the morning?



## The 3 (children / the children)

A

When we are talking about things or people in general, we do *not* use **the**:

- ☐ I'm afraid of **dogs**. (*not* the dogs)  
(**dogs** = dogs in general, not a specific group of dogs)
- ☐ **Doctors** are usually paid more than **teachers**.
- ☐ Do you know anybody who collects **stamps**?
- ☐ **Crime** is a problem in most big cities. (*not* The crime)
- ☐ **Life** has changed a lot in the last thirty years. (*not* The life)
- ☐ Do you like **classical music** / **Chinese food** / **fast cars**?
- ☐ My favourite sport is **football/skiing/athletics**.
- ☐ My favourite subject at school was **history/physics/English**.

We say '**most** people / **most** books / **most** cars' etc. (*not* the most ...):

- ☐ **Most shops** accept credit cards. (*not* The most shops)

B

We use **the** when we mean specific things or people.

Compare:

*In general (without the)*

- ☐ **Children** learn from playing.  
(= children in general)
- ☐ I couldn't live without **music**.
- ☐ All **cars** have wheels.
- ☐ **Sugar** isn't very good for you.
- ☐ **English people** drink a lot of tea.  
(= English people in general)

*Specific people or things (with the)*

- ☐ We took **the children** to the zoo.  
(= a specific group, perhaps the speaker's children)
- ☐ The film wasn't very good, but I liked **the music**. (= the music in the film)
- ☐ All **the cars in this car park** belong to people who work here.
- ☐ Can you pass **the sugar**, please?  
(= the sugar on the table)
- ☐ **The English people I know** drink a lot of tea. (= only the English people I know, not English people in general)

C

The difference between 'something in general' and 'something specific' is not always very clear.

Compare:

*In general (without the)*

- ☐ I like working with **people**.  
(= people in general)
- ☐ I like working with **people who say what they think**. (not all people, but 'people who say what they think' is still a general idea)
- ☐ Do you like **coffee**?  
(= coffee in general)
- ☐ Do you like **strong black coffee**?  
(not all coffee, but 'strong black coffee' is still a general idea)

*Specific people or things (with the)*

- ☐ I like **the people I work with**.  
(= a specific group of people)
- ☐ I didn't like **the coffee we had after dinner**.  
(= specific coffee)

## Exercises

**75.1** Choose four of these things and write whether you like them or not:

bananas	boxing	cats	crowds	fast food	horror movies
<del>hot weather</del>	maths	opera	snow	supermarkets	zoos

Begin each sentence with one of these:

I like ... / I don't like ...

I don't mind ...

I love ... / I hate ...

I'm interested in ... / I'm not interested in ...

1 I don't like hot weather very much.

2

3

4

5

**75.2** Complete the sentences using the following. Use **the** where necessary.

<del>(the) basketball</del>	(the) grass	(the) patience	(the) people
(the) questions	(the) meat	<del>(the) information</del>	(the) hotels
(the) history	(the) water	(the) spiders	(the) lies

1 My favourite sport is basketball.

2 The information we were given wasn't correct.

3 Some people are afraid of \_\_\_\_\_.

4 A vegetarian is somebody who doesn't eat \_\_\_\_\_.

5 The test wasn't very difficult. I answered \_\_\_\_\_ without difficulty.

6 Do you know \_\_\_\_\_ who live next door?

7 \_\_\_\_\_ is the study of the past.

8 It's better to tell the truth. Telling \_\_\_\_\_ usually causes problems.

9 We couldn't find anywhere to stay in the town. \_\_\_\_\_ were full.

10 \_\_\_\_\_ in the pool didn't look very clean, so we didn't go for a swim.

11 Don't sit on \_\_\_\_\_. It's wet after the rain.

12 You need \_\_\_\_\_ to teach young children.

**75.3** Choose the correct form, with or without **the**.

1 I'm afraid of dogs / ~~the dogs~~. (dogs is correct)

2 Apples / The apples are good for you.

3 Look at apples / the apples on that tree! They're very big.

4 Women / The women live longer than men / the men.

5 I don't drink tea / the tea. I don't like it.

6 We had a very good meal. Vegetables / The vegetables were especially good.

7 Life / The life is strange sometimes. Some very strange things happen.

8 I enjoy holidays / the holidays by the sea.

9 How much money does the government spend on education / the education?

10 Who are people / the people in this picture?

11 What makes people / the people violent? What causes aggression / the aggression?

12 All books / All the books on the top shelf belong to me.

13 Don't stay in that hotel. It's very noisy and rooms / the rooms are very small.

14 A pacifist is somebody who is against war / the war.

15 First World War / The First World War lasted from 1914 until 1918.

16 I don't like films / the films that don't have happy endings.

17 Someone gave me a book about history / the history of modern art / the modern art.

18 Rob and Louise got married, but marriage / the marriage didn't last very long.

19 Most people / The most people believe that marriage / the marriage and family life / the family life are the basis of society / the society.



# The 4 (the giraffe / the telephone / the piano etc. ; the + adjective)

## A

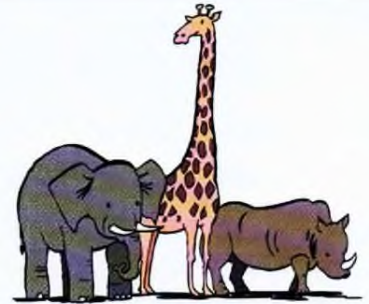
Study these sentences:

- ☐ **The giraffe** is the tallest of all animals.
- ☐ **The bicycle** is an excellent means of transport.
- ☐ When was **the telephone** invented?
- ☐ **The dollar** is the currency of the United States.

In these examples, **the** ... does not mean one specific thing.

**The giraffe** = a specific type of animal, not a specific giraffe.

We use **the** in this way to talk about a type of animal, machine etc.



In the same way we use **the** for musical instruments:

- ☐ Can you play **the** guitar?
- ☐ **The** piano is my favourite instrument.

Compare **a** and **the**:

- ☐ I'd like to have **a** piano.      *but*    I can't play **the** piano.
- ☐ We saw **a** giraffe at the zoo.    *but*    **The** giraffe is my favourite animal.

Note that we use **man** (= human beings in general / the human race) without **the**:

- ☐ What do you know about the origins of **man**? (*not* the man)

## B

## The + adjective

We use **the** + *adjective* (without a noun) to talk about groups of people. For example:

<b>the young</b>	<b>the rich</b>	<b>the sick</b>	<b>the injured</b>
<b>the old</b>	<b>the poor</b>	<b>the disabled</b>	<b>the dead</b>
<b>the elderly</b>	<b>the homeless</b>	<b>the unemployed</b>	

**The young** = young people, **the rich** = rich people etc. :

- ☐ Do you think **the rich** should pay higher taxes?
- ☐ We need to do more to help **the homeless**.

**The young** / **the rich** / **the injured** etc. are *plural* in meaning. For example, you cannot say 'a young' or 'the injured' for one person. You must say '**a** young **person**', '**the** injured **woman**' etc.

Note that we say 'the **poor**' (*not* the poors), 'the **young**' (*not* the youngs) etc.

## C

## The + nationality

You can use **the** + nationality adjectives that end in **-ch** or **-sh** (**the French** / **the English** / **the Spanish** etc.). The meaning is 'the people of that country':

- ☐ **The French** are famous for their food. (= the people of France)

**The French** / **the English** etc. are plural in meaning. We do not say 'a French / an English'.

You have to say **a Frenchman** / **an Englishwoman** etc.

We also use **the** + nationality words ending in **-ese** (**the Chinese** / **the Sudanese** / **the Japanese** etc.):

- ☐ **The Chinese** invented printing.

But these words can also be singular (**a** Chinese, **a** Japanese etc.).

*Note also:* **a Swiss** (singular) and **the Swiss** (= the people of Switzerland)

With other nationalities, the plural noun ends in **-s**. For example:

**an Italian** → **Italians**      **a Mexican** → **Mexicans**      **a Turk** → **Turks**

With these words (**Italians** etc.), we do not normally use **the** to talk about the people in general (see Unit 75).

## Exercises

**76.1** Answer the questions. Choose the right answer from the box. Don't forget **the**. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1

*animals*

tiger elephant  
rabbit cheetah  
giraffe kangaroo

2

*birds*

eagle penguin  
swan owl  
parrot pigeon

3

*inventions*

telephone wheel  
telescope laser  
helicopter typewriter

4

*currencies*

dollar peso  
euro rupee  
rouble yen

- 1 a Which of the animals is tallest?  
b Which animal can run fastest?  
c Which of these animals is found in Australia?
- 2 a Which of these birds has a long neck?  
b Which of these birds cannot fly?  
c Which bird flies at night?
- 3 a Which of these inventions is oldest?  
b Which one is most recent?  
c Which one was especially important for astronomy?
- 4 a What is the currency of India?  
b What is the currency of Canada?  
c And the currency of your country?

the giraffe

**76.2** Put in **the** or **a**.

- 1 When was the telephone invented?
- 2 Can you play a musical instrument?
- 3 Jessica plays a violin in an orchestra.
- 4 There was a piano in the corner of the room.
- 5 Can you play a piano?
- 6 Our society is based on a family.
- 7 Martin comes from a large family.
- 8 A computer has changed the way we live.

**76.3** Complete these sentences using **the** + the following:

**injured   poor   rich   sick   unemployed   ~~young~~**

- 1 The young have the future in their hands.
- 2 Ambulances arrived at the scene of the accident and took the injured to hospital.
- 3 Life is all right if you have a job, but things are not so easy for the unemployed.
- 4 Helen has been a nurse all her life. She has spent her life caring for the sick.
- 5 In England there is an old story about a man called Robin Hood. It is said that he robbed the rich and gave the money to the poor.

**76.4** What do you call the people of these countries?

one person (a/an ...)

the people in general

- 1 Canada
- 2 Germany
- 3 France
- 4 Russia
- 5 China
- 6 Brazil
- 7 England
- 8 and your country

a Canadian

Canadians



Names with and without **the** 1

A

We do *not* use **the** with names of people ('Helen', 'Helen Taylor' etc.). In the same way, we do *not* use **the** with most names of places. For example:

*continents*  
*countries, states etc.*  
*islands*  
*cities, towns etc.*  
*mountains*

Africa (*not the Africa*), Europe, South America  
France (*not the France*), Japan, Brazil, Texas  
Sicily, Bermuda, Tasmania  
Cairo, New York, Bangkok  
Everest, Etna, Kilimanjaro



But we use **the** in names with **Republic, Kingdom, States** etc. :

**the Czech Republic**

**the United Kingdom (the UK)**

**the Dominican Republic**

**the United States of America (the USA)**

Compare:

☐ Have you been to **Canada** or **the United States**?

B

When we use **Mr/Mrs/Captain/Doctor** etc. + a name, we do not use **the**. So we say:

**Mr Johnson / Doctor Johnson / Captain Johnson / President Johnson** etc. (*not the ...*)

**Uncle Robert / Saint Catherine / Princess Maria** etc. (*not the ...*)

Compare:

☐ We called **the doctor**.

We called **Doctor Johnson**. (*not the Doctor Johnson*)

We use **Mount** (= mountain) and **Lake** before a name in the same way (without **the**):

**Mount Everest** (*not the ...*)

**Mount Etna**

**Lake Superior**

**Lake Victoria**

☐ They live near **the lake**.

They live near **Lake Superior**. (*not the Lake Superior*)

C

We use **the** with the names of oceans, seas, rivers and canals:

**the Atlantic (Ocean)**

**the Red Sea**

**the Amazon**

**the Indian Ocean**

**the Channel** (between

**the Nile**

**the Mediterranean (Sea)**

France and Britain)

**the Suez Canal**

We use **the** with the names of deserts:

**the Sahara (Desert)**

**the Gobi Desert**

D

We use **the** with *plural* names of people and places:

*people*

**the Taylors** (= the Taylor family), **the Johnsons**

*countries*

**the Netherlands, the Philippines, the United States**

*groups of islands*

**the Canaries / the Canary Islands, the Bahamas**

*mountain ranges*

**the Rocky Mountains / the Rockies, the Andes, the Alps**

☐ The highest mountain in **the Andes** is (**Mount**) **Aconcagua**.

E

We say:

**the north** (of Brazil)

*but*

**northern Brazil** (*without the*)

**the south-east** (of Spain)

*but*

**south-eastern Spain**

Compare:

☐ Sweden is in **northern Europe**; Spain is in **the south**.

Also **the** Middle East, **the** Far East

We also use **north/south** etc. (*without the*) in the names of some regions and countries:

**North America**

**South Africa**

Note that on maps, **the** is not usually included in the name.

## Exercises

**77.1** Put in **the** where necessary. Leave the space empty if the sentence is already complete.

- Who is \_\_\_\_\_ Doctor Johnson? (*the sentence is complete without the*)
- I was ill, so I went to see \_\_\_\_\_ doctor.
- The most powerful person in \_\_\_\_\_ United States is \_\_\_\_\_ president.
- \_\_\_\_\_ President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.
- Do you know \_\_\_\_\_ Wilsons? They're a very nice couple.
- I'm looking for \_\_\_\_\_ Professor Brown. Do you know where she is?

**77.2** Some of these sentences are correct, but some need **the** (sometimes more than once). Correct the sentences where necessary.

- Everest was first climbed in 1953.
- Milan is in north of Italy.
- Africa is much larger than Europe.
- Last year I visited Mexico and United States.
- South of England is warmer than north.
- Portugal is in western Europe.
- France and Britain are separated by Channel.
- James has travelled a lot in Middle East.
- Chicago is on Lake Michigan.
- Next year we're going skiing in Swiss Alps.
- UK consists of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- Seychelles are a group of islands in Indian Ocean.
- The highest mountain in Africa is Kilimanjaro.
- River Volga flows into Caspian Sea.

OK

in the north of Italy

**77.3** Here are some geography questions. Choose the right answer from one of the boxes and write **the** if necessary. You do not need all the names in the boxes. Use an atlas if necessary.

<i>continents</i>	<i>countries</i>	<i>oceans and seas</i>	<i>mountains</i>	<i>rivers and canals</i>
Africa	Canada	<del>Atlantic</del>	Alps	Amazon Rhine
Asia	Denmark	Indian Ocean	Andes	Danube Thames
Australia	Indonesia	Pacific	Himalayas	Nile Volga
Europe	Sweden	Black Sea	Rockies	Suez Canal
North America	Thailand	Mediterranean	Urals	Panama Canal
South America	United States	Red Sea		

- What do you have to cross to travel from Europe to America? the Atlantic
- Where is Argentina?
- Which is the longest river in Africa?
- Of which country is Stockholm the capital?
- Of which country is Washington the capital?
- What is the name of the mountain range in the west of North America?
- What is the name of the sea between Africa and Europe?
- Which is the smallest continent in the world?
- What is the name of the ocean between North America and Asia?
- What is the name of the ocean between Africa and Australia?
- Which river flows through London?
- Which river flows through Vienna, Budapest and Belgrade?
- Of which country is Bangkok the capital?
- What joins the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans?
- Which is the longest river in South America?



Names with and without **the** 2

## A

Names without **the**We do not use **the** with names of most city streets/roads/squares/parks etc. :Union **Street** (*not the ...*)Fifth **Avenue**Hyde **Park**Queens **Road****Broadway**Times **Square**

Names of important public buildings and institutions (for example, airports, stations, universities) are often two words:

**Manchester Airport****Harvard University**The first word is the name of a place ('Manchester') or a person ('Harvard'). These names are usually without **the**. In the same way, we say:**Victoria Station** (*not the ...*)**Canterbury Cathedral****Edinburgh Castle****Buckingham Palace****Cambridge University****Sydney Harbour**

Compare:

**Buckingham Palace** (*not the ...*) *but* **the Royal Palace**  
(*'Royal'* is an adjective – it is not a name like 'Buckingham'.)

## B

Most other buildings have names with **the**. For example:*hotels***the** Sheraton Hotel, **the** Holiday Inn*theatres/cinemas***the** Palace Theatre, **the** Odeon (cinema)*museums/galleries***the** Guggenheim Museum, **the** National Gallery*other buildings***the** Empire State (Building), **the** White House, **the** Eiffel Tower

We often leave out the noun:

**the Sheraton** (Hotel)**the Palace** (Theatre)**the Guggenheim** (Museum)Some names are only **the** + *noun*, for example:**the Acropolis****the Kremlin****the Pentagon**

## C

Names with **of** usually have **the**. For example:**the** Bank **of** England**the** Museum **of** Modern Art**the** Great Wall **of** China**the** Tower **of** London

Note that we say:

**the** University **of** Cambridge *but* **Cambridge University** (*without the*)

## D

Many shops, restaurants, hotels, banks etc. are named after people. These names end in **-s** or **-s**.We do not use **the** with these names:**McDonald's** (*not the ...*)**Barclays** (bank)**Joe's Diner** (restaurant)**Macy's** (department store)

Churches are often named after saints (St = Saint):

**St John's Church** (*not the St Johns Church*)**St Patrick's Cathedral**

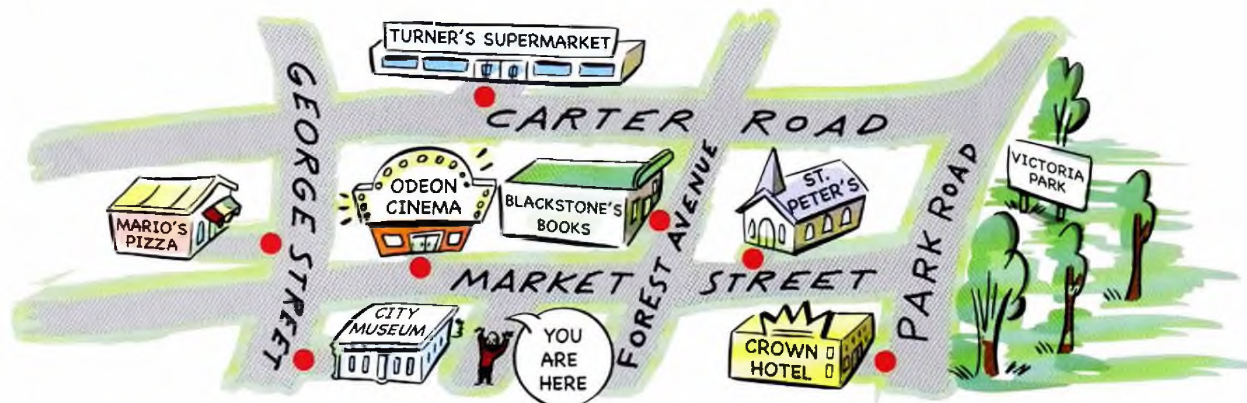
## E

Most newspapers and many organisations have names with **the**:*newspapers***the** Washington Post, **the** Financial Times, **the** Sun*organisations***the** European Union, **the** BBC, **the** Red CrossNames of companies, airlines etc. are usually without **the**:**Fiat** (*not the Fiat*)**Sony****Singapore Airlines****Kodak****IBM****Yale University Press**



## Exercises

- 78.1** Use the map to answer the questions. Write the name of the place and the street it is in. Use **the** if necessary. (Remember that on maps we do not normally use **the**.)



- 1 Is there a cinema near here?
- 2 Is there a supermarket near here?
- 3 Is there a hotel near here?
- 4 Is there a church near here?
- 5 Is there a museum near here?
- 6 Is there a bookshop near here?
- 7 Is there a restaurant near here?
- 8 Is there a park near here?

Yes, the Odeon in Market Street

Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, \_\_\_\_\_ at the end of \_\_\_\_\_

- 78.2** Where are the following? Use **the** where necessary.

Acropolis  
Kremlin

Broadway  
White House

Buckingham Palace  
Gatwick Airport

Eiffel Tower  
Times Square

- 1 Times Square is in New York.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ is in Paris.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ is in London.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ is in Washington.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ is in Moscow.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ is in New York.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ is in Athens.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ is near London.

- 78.3** Choose the correct form, with or without **the**.

- 1 Have you ever been to ~~British Museum~~ / the British Museum? (the British Museum is correct)
- 2 The biggest park in New York is Central Park / the Central Park.
- 3 My favourite park in London is St James's Park / the St James's Park.
- 4 Imperial Hotel / The Imperial Hotel is in Baker Street / the Baker Street.
- 5 Dublin Airport / The Dublin Airport is situated about 12 kilometres from the city centre.
- 6 Jack is a student at Liverpool University / the Liverpool University.
- 7 If you're looking for a department store, I would recommend Harrison's / the Harrison's.
- 8 If you're looking for a hotel, I would recommend Park Plaza / the Park Plaza.
- 9 Statue of Liberty / The Statue of Liberty is at the entrance to New York Harbour / the New York Harbour.
- 10 You should go to Science Museum / the Science Museum. It's very interesting.
- 11 Andy works for IBM / the IBM now. He used to work for British Telecom / the British Telecom.
- 12 'Which cinema are you going to this evening?' 'Classic / The Classic.'
- 13 I'd like to go to China and see Great Wall / the Great Wall.
- 14 'Which newspaper do you want?' 'Times / The Times.'
- 15 This book is published by Cambridge University Press / the Cambridge University Press.
- 16 'What's that building?' 'It's College of Art / the College of Art.'