

## DEFINITE ARTICLE THE / ZERO ARTICLE

### Function

#### We use the definite article **the**:

when something has been mentioned before.

when there is only one of something or the reference is to a whole group.

with some country names that have plural nouns or the words *States*, *Kingdom*, or *Republic* in the name.

with geographical features.

when the noun answers the question *which?* or *what?*

#### We use no (zero) article:

with plural countable nouns when talking about them generally.

with uncountable nouns when talking about them generally.

with names of people, months, cities, most countries, products, etc.

#### Examples

*I can see a man and a woman in a cafe. **The** woman is wearing a blue coat.*

the world, the fashion industry, the BBC

the Netherlands, the United States, the United Kingdom

the Pacific Ocean, the Andes, the Mississippi River

A: Which jacket is yours?

B: **The** red one.

#### Examples

Dogs are good pets. Apples are a healthy snack.

money, wood, water

David Beckham, New York, January

### 1 Complete the sentences with **the** or put X for no (zero) article.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Serengeti is an important ecosystem in East Africa.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ young people spend a lot of money on technology.
- 3 There is a hotel and two restaurants in the town. \_\_\_\_\_ hotel is next to \_\_\_\_\_ ocean.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ company's research found that \_\_\_\_\_ women enjoy shopping with friends.
- 5 Many people download \_\_\_\_\_ music from \_\_\_\_\_ internet.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ North Pole reaches temperatures of -45 °C.

### 2 Complete the text with **the** or put X for no (zero) article.

1 \_\_\_\_\_ sports have always played an important role in 2 \_\_\_\_\_ society, and are constantly evolving. We know 3 \_\_\_\_\_ first Olympic Games took place in 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Greece in 776 BC. Monuments from 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Ancient Egypt tell us that 6 \_\_\_\_\_ Pharaohs enjoyed swimming in 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Nile River 2,000 years ago. In 1940, 8 \_\_\_\_\_ archeologists found 9 \_\_\_\_\_ cave paintings in Lascaux, France which show 10 \_\_\_\_\_ men wrestling and running. 11 \_\_\_\_\_ cave paintings date back 17,000 years. More recently, 12 \_\_\_\_\_ Industrial Revolution increased the amount of 13 \_\_\_\_\_ free time people had to play and watch different sports. Nowadays, 14 \_\_\_\_\_ extreme sports are popular. Maybe they reflect a need to escape the routine of everyday life in 15 \_\_\_\_\_ modern era.