

Are there any special times I should use *the*?

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a In the USA this situation is totally different.
b In USA this situation is totally different.
- 2 a The table shows number of people working in Britain in 1976.
b The table shows the number of people working in Britain in 1976.

We use *the*

- with countries or places where the name refers to a group of islands or states: *the United States, the Middle East, the United Arab Emirates, the UK*
- with superlatives: *the best, the longest, the highest*
- with cardinal numbers: *the first, the second, the third*
- when there is only one in the world: *the environment, the internet, the sun*
- to refer to the only one in this particular area: *the government, the police, the river*
- in the phrase: *the same as*

We don't use *the*

- with a single country or place: *America, England, China*
- to talk about something in general. We use the plural if we are talking about something in general; we use *the* to identify one specific example. Compare:
People with reading difficulties often have problems with numbers.
The number eight is considered lucky in some countries.

2 Correct the mistake below.



3 Complete the sentences below using the words in brackets. Decide whether or not to use *the*, or whether to use the plural.

- 1 The main advantage of is that it gives us access to information from all over the world. (*internet*)
- 2 My father has fished in all over Australia. (*river*)
- 3 Life in is very different from life in my country. (*America*)
- 4 According to the graph, of people moving into the city each year has more than doubled. (*number*)
- 5 The total figure for 1976 was as the total figure for 1982. (*same*)
- 6 Obesity is much more common in than in my country. (*USA*)
- 7 The graph shows that increase occurred in 1999. (*greatest*)
- 8 travels around at a speed of 3,700 kilometres per hour. (*moon, earth*)