

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.

- _____ Serengeti is an important ecosystem in East Africa.
- _____ young people spend a lot of money on technology.
- There is a hotel and two restaurants in the town. _____ hotel is next to _____ ocean.
- _____ company's research found that _____ women enjoy shopping with friends.
- Many people download _____ music from _____ internet.
- _____ 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.