

Grammar 2A

Definite article (*the*)

Why is a definite article (*the*) used in these sentences?

Write a, b, c or d next to each sentence.

- a there is only one person or thing
- b the person or thing has been referred to before
- c it's part of a name
- d it's part of a superlative

1 My new mobile didn't work, so I took the phone back to the shop. _____

2 People get a lot of news from the internet. _____

3 Google is one of the most popular internet search engines. _____

4 New insects are still being discovered in the Amazon rainforest. _____

5 New Caledonia is an island in the Pacific. _____

6 Scientists believe the world is around 4.5 billion years old. _____

7 The oldest tree ever known was around 5000 years old. _____

8 Her elderly neighbour doesn't have any family, so she visits the old lady regularly. _____

Grammar 2B

Definite article (*the*)

Complete the text with *the*, *a* or no article (-).

In 1964, (1) *a* / *the* researcher got permission from (2) - / *the* United States Forest Service to cut down (3) *the* / *a* bristlecone pine tree in (4) *the* / *a* Great Basin National Park. (5) *The* / *A* park is in (6) *the* / - Nevada in (7) - / *the* west of (8) - / *the* US and contains many very old trees. (9) *The* / - researcher wanted to study (10) *the* / *a* rings inside these ancient trees. When he counted (11) *the* / *a* rings inside (12) *a* / *the* tree he had cut down, he found that there were around 4,900 growth rings. This meant it was almost 5,000 years old, (13) *an* / *the* oldest known tree.