

2 Read the information.

a/an

We use **a/an** with singular countable nouns:

- when we talk about one thing or person but we don't say exactly which one:
Lucy's reading a book.
There's a supermarket near my house.
- to talk about someone's job:
My mother is a teacher.
- to describe people or things:
Pip is a nice girl. That's a good idea.
- in expressions with numbers:
I sleep eight hours a night.
Apples cost €3 a kilo.
Remember: We don't use **a/an** with uncountable nouns (*water, milk*) or plural nouns (*apples, books*).

the

We can use **the** with singular, plural and uncountable nouns. We use **the**:

- when it is clear which person or thing we mean:
The boy over there is my brother. Where's the sugar?
- when there is only one:
The Earth is round. Peter is in the garden.

- with the names of oceans (*the Pacific Ocean*), seas (*the Red Sea*), rivers (*the Nile*), mountain ranges (*the Andes*) and deserts (*the Sahara Desert*).
- with the names of some countries: *the USA (United States of America), the UK (United Kingdom), the Netherlands*
- with musical instruments:
He plays the piano.
- in some time expressions:
in the morning/afternoon/evening, at the weekend.
But we say:
in January, at night, on Mondays

Zero article

We don't use **a** or **the**:

- with names of people (*Peter, Mr Hardy*), continents (*Africa*), most countries (*Spain*), cities (*Madrid*), streets (*West Street*), lakes (*Lake Michigan*) and mountains (*Mount Everest*).
- with sports (*basketball*), games (*chess*), school subjects (*Maths*), meals (*dinner*) and languages (*English*).
- in these expressions:
Beth is at home/at school/in bed.
I go to school every day. I go by bus.

Look!

When we talk about something for the first time, we use **a/an**. When we talk about it again, we use **the**: *This is a sandwich and that's an apple. The sandwich is for you and the apple is for me.*

3 Complete with *a, an* or *the*.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 A: This is a boring film. | B: Yes, it is. Come on, let's play <u>a</u> game. |
| 2 A: What does your father do? | B: He works in office. |
| 3 A: What's that? | B: It's old photo of my dad. |
| 4 A: Joe's mum is actress. | B: Really? What about his father? |
| 5 A: I can't open door. | B: Where's key? |
| 6 A: Where's Mike? | B: He's at sports centre with Fred. |
| 7 A: How much are the oranges? | B: They're €2 kilo, I think. |

4 Complete with *the* or *-*. Then do the quiz.

TeenLink

Geography quiz

Are these statements true or false?

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------|
| 1 | New York is in <i>the</i> USA. | True / False |
| 2 | Paris is the capital of Spain. | True / False |
| 3 | Nile is in Africa. | True / False |
| 4 | Atlantic Ocean is in Asia. | True / False |
| 5 | Alps are in Europe. | True / False |
| 6 | Sydney is in Australia. | True / False |
| 7 | Mount Fuji is in Turkey. | True / False. |
| 8 | Sahara desert is in UK. | True / False |
| 9 | Tokyo is in Japan. | True / False |
| 10 | Lake Superior is in Netherlands. | True / False |

Answers: 1 True 2 False 3 True 4 False 5 True 6 True 7 False 8 False 9 True 10 False

5 Complete with *a*, *the* or *-*.

- 1 A: There's ¹ *a* postcard for you on the table. I think it's from ² Mike.
 B: Yes, it is. Oh, look – it's from ³ Miami!
- 2 A: What does this word mean?
 B: I don't know. Why don't you ask ⁴ Claire? She speaks ⁵ Spanish.
 A: I can't. She isn't at ⁶ home – she's at ⁷ sports centre. She's playing ⁸ tennis with Sarah.
- 3 A: Do you always do your homework in ⁹ evening?
 B: Well, no. But today I'm studying for my Geography test.
 A: Oh. I hate ¹⁰ Geography!
 B: I like it.
 A: Of course you do! Your mum's ¹¹ Geography teacher!
 B: Well, yes. But she never helps me with my homework!

6 Complete with *a/an* or *the*.

- There was good film on TV last night. film was about Africa.
- Peter and Lucy live in small town. town isn't near the sea.
- Vicky has got cat and two dogs. dogs are very friendly. cat isn't friendly.
- There's sports centre and swimming pool in our town. swimming pool is in park near my house.
- My mum's got old car. car is blue.
- I met interesting girl yesterday. girl was from Poland.

5 Read and complete. Use *a*, *an* or *the*.

I didn't know what ¹ liger was until I met Jennifer Flowers, ² twenty-year-old zoo keeper from ³ US. 'A liger is ⁴ animal,' she explained. 'It's a cross between a lion and ⁵ tiger and it's bigger than ⁶ ordinary lion. There are only a few ligers in ⁷ world but we have two here at the Arizona Wildlife Park: ⁸ male liger and ⁹ female liger. ¹⁰ male liger, Timmy, is two years old. ¹¹ female liger, Sidney, is only six months old,' she told me. I visited ¹² park last week and I met Timmy and Sidney. They're both amazing!



6 Complete. Use *the* or *-*.

- 1 *The* Acropolis is in Athens.
- 2 Vicky is at home and Paul is at school.
- 3 coat by the door is Ian's.
- 4 Our neighbours went to Netherlands on holiday.
- 5 Smiths have invited us for dinner tomorrow.
- 6 Can you phone me in evening?
- 7 Star Hotel is in Old Street.
- 8 Mr Paganelli is Italian. He grew up in Milan.
- 9 Mrs Evans teaches Geography at our school.
- 10 Have you ever been to National History Museum?

7 Complete. Use *a*, *the* or *-*.

- 1 A: Do you know Mrs Cole?
B: Yes, I met her at party last week.
- 2 A: Where's new girl?
B: She is ill in hospital.
- 3 A: Their new house has garden, garage and tennis court.
B: Yes, I know. garden is lovely, isn't it?
- 4 A: Do you speak English?
B: Of course! I grew up in UK!
- 5 A: Remember to turn television off before you go to bed.
B: OK, goodnight. See you in morning.
- 6 A: I hate chess!
B: Me too. Peter loves it though.
- 7 A: What does Marianne's father do?
B: I think he's doctor.
- 8 A: Do you always stay at home at weekend?
B: No, not always.
- 9 A: What do you want for lunch?
B: Why don't we have fish you bought yesterday?
- 10 A: There's T-shirt on your bed. Is it yours?
B: No, it isn't. It's Ben's. It's nice, isn't it?