



## 12 Form, Meaning and Function

### The Definite Article: *the*

The definite article *the* comes before singular and plural nouns: **the** car, **the** cars.

Use *the* for specific objects or people that were introduced before or that are known.

Do not use *the* with plural or noncount nouns when talking in general.

He is a tourist. **The** tourist is in Jeddah.

What are **the** official languages of Canada?

Technology is used in classrooms.

Use *the* with the superlative.

Planes are **the** fastest means of transport.

Use *the* for objects that are one of a kind.

**the** Earth      **the** sun      **the** moon  
**the** stars      **the** sky      **the** sea

Use *the* with the names of oceans, seas, rivers, mountain ranges, deserts, groups of states, and monuments.

**the** Red Sea      **the** Amazon      **the** Eiffel Tower      **the** National Museum  
**the** Arabian Desert      **the** Alps      **the** United States      **the** Pacific Ocean

Do not use *the* with proper names, possessive adjectives, months, days of the week, meals, games, sports, or with the words *home*, *school*, *work*, *business*, and *vacation* when used for their purpose.

Fahd is my brother.      He is in Dubai on business.      Let's play tennis after lunch.



#### A. Write the definite article *the* where necessary.

1. When \_\_\_\_ sun goes down at \_\_\_\_ night, you can see \_\_\_\_ moon and \_\_\_\_ stars.
2. \_\_\_\_ Burj Khalifa in \_\_\_\_ Dubai is \_\_\_\_ tallest building in \_\_\_\_ world.
3. \_\_\_\_ Great Pyramid of \_\_\_\_ Giza is one of \_\_\_\_ Seven Wonders of \_\_\_\_ Ancient World.
4. \_\_\_\_ Calligraphers used \_\_\_\_ Kufic script to write \_\_\_\_ first copies of \_\_\_\_ Holy Qur'an.
5. \_\_\_\_ Last year we went on \_\_\_\_ vacation to \_\_\_\_ island of \_\_\_\_ Penang in \_\_\_\_ Malaysia.

#### B. Write the article *a*, *an*, or *the* where necessary.

1. \_\_\_\_ bullet train can travel at \_\_\_\_ speed of 300 km \_\_\_\_ hour. It isn't as fast as \_\_\_\_ airplane, but \_\_\_\_ trip on \_\_\_\_ express train can take \_\_\_\_ shorter time.
2. We usually play \_\_\_\_ football in \_\_\_\_ park on \_\_\_\_ Saturday morning. In \_\_\_\_ afternoon, we go for \_\_\_\_ lunch at \_\_\_\_ our favorite restaurant by \_\_\_\_ beach.
3. What makes \_\_\_\_ Jeddah \_\_\_\_ global city and one of \_\_\_\_ best places to live in \_\_\_\_ Middle East? Is it \_\_\_\_ quality of \_\_\_\_ life?
4. \_\_\_\_ Cambridge is surrounded by \_\_\_\_ green areas; \_\_\_\_ quarter of \_\_\_\_ population cycles around \_\_\_\_ town, through \_\_\_\_ parks, and along \_\_\_\_ narrow streets.
5. \_\_\_\_ coral reefs in \_\_\_\_ Red Sea are \_\_\_\_ popular destination for \_\_\_\_ scuba divers.