

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.

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

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

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