

We use the:

- with nouns which are unique. *the moon, the Acropolis, the earth, the sun, the Eiffel Tower, etc.*
- names of cinemas (*The Odeon*), hotels (*The Ritz*), theatres (*The Lyceum*), museums (*The Louvre*), newspapers/magazines (*The Telegraph* BUT *Newsweek*), ships (*The Bounty*), organisations (*The UN*), galleries (*The National Gallery*).
- with names of rivers (*the Mississippi*), seas (*the Red Sea*), groups of islands/states (*the Virgin Islands, the USA*), mountain ranges (*the Alps*), deserts (*the Gobi desert*), oceans (*the Pacific*), canals (*the Panama Canal*) and names or nouns with 'of' (*the Tomb of the Kings, the Garden of Eden*)
Note: *the equator, the North/South Pole, the north of England, the South/West/North/East*
- with the names of musical instruments and dances. *the guitar, the waltz*
- with the names of families (*the Simpsons*), nationalities ending in -sh, -ch or -ese (*the Welsh, the Dutch, the Chinese, etc.*). Other plural nationalities are used with or without 'the' ((*the*) *South Africans, (the) Swiss, etc.*).
- with titles (*the Pope, the Duke of Norfolk, the Queen*). BUT 'The' is omitted before titles with proper names. *Queen Alexandra*
- with adjectives used as plural nouns (*the old, the injured, the unemployed, the sick, the privileged, the deaf, etc.*) and the superlative degree of adjectives/adverbs (*the worst*). *She's the most sensible girl in the class.*
Note: 'most' used as a determiner followed by a noun does not take 'the'. *Most children like animals. BUT Of all European cities Rome has the most beautiful fountains.*
- with the words: *station, shop, cinema, café, library, city, village, etc.* *She went to the library to return some books.*
- with the words: *morning, afternoon, evening, night.*
I'll be at work in the morning. BUT at night, at noon, at midnight, by day/night, at 4 o'clock, etc.
- with historical references/events. *the French Revolution, the Dark Ages, the Thirty Years' War* BUT *World War I*)
- with the words: *only, last, first* (used as adjectives). *He was the only person to disagree.*

We do not use the:

- with proper nouns. *Paul comes from London.*
- with the names of sports, games, activities, days, months, holidays, colours, drinks, meals and languages (not followed by the word 'language'). *She plays tennis well. She likes blue. We speak French. BUT The Latin language is hardly used now.*
- with the names of countries (*Portugal*), BUT *the Netherlands, (the) Sudan, (the) Vatican City, cities (Lisbon), streets (Regent Street, BUT the High Street, the Strand, the Bristol road, the A4, the M1 motorway), squares (Constitution Square), bridges (London Bridge BUT the Bridge of Sighs, the Forth Bridge, the Severn Bridge, the Golden Gate Bridge), parks (Regent's Park), stations (Waterloo Station), individual mountains (Everest), islands (Malta), lakes (Lake Ontario), continents (Asia)*
- with possessive adjectives. *This isn't your bag.*
- two-word names when the first word is the name of a person or place. *Charles de Gaulle Airport, Buckingham Palace* BUT *the White House*, (because the first word 'White' is not the name of a person or place)
- with names of cafés, restaurants, shops, banks and hotels which have the name of their founder and end in -s or -'s. *Selfridges, Barclays Bank, Harry's Café* BUT *the Black Swan* (restaurant) (because 'Black Swan' is not a name of a person or place)
- with the words: *bed, church, college, court, hospital, prison, school, university*, when we refer to the purpose for which they exist. *John went to university. (He is a student.) BUT His mother went to the university to see him last week. (She went to the university as a visitor.)*
- work (=place of work) never takes 'the'. *She is at work.*
- with the words: *home, Father/Mother* when we talk about our own home/parents. *Mother is at home.*
- with by + means of transport: *by bus/by car/by train/by plane, etc* BUT *in the car, on the bus/train, etc.* *He travelled by train. BUT He left on the 6 o'clock train yesterday.*
- with the names of illnesses. *He's got diabetes. BUT flu/the flu, measles/the measles, mumps/the mumps.*

22 Fill in *the* where necessary and answer the questions, as in the example.

QUIZ



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Is ... Rome <i>the</i> capital of ... Italy?
A Yes B No | 6 Does ... Pope live in ... Vatican City?
A Yes B No |
| 2 Is ... Sicily in ... Mediterranean Sea?
A Yes B No | 7 Is ... Leonardo da Vinci Airport in Milan?
A Yes B No |
| 3 Is ... Lake Garda ... largest lake in ... Italy?
A Yes B No | 8 Is ... Bridge of Sighs in ... Venice?
A Yes B No |
| 4 Where are ... Alps?
A In ... central Italy
B In ... northern Italy. | 9 Which famous landmark can you see on ... Italian five cent euro coin?
A the Colosseum B the Trevi Fountain |
| 5 Which ancient language does ... Italian language come from?
A Latin B Greek | 10 ... Tarantella is a famous dance from ... south of Italy.
A True B False |

23 Fill in the gaps with *the* and one of the adjectives from the list.

• deaf • unemployed • disabled • privileged • young • injured

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 After the fire, <i>the injured</i> were taken to hospital by ambulance. | 4 The new town hall has been designed to give wheelchair access for |
| 2 The government promised that it would try to find jobs for | 5 Sign language is used by to help them communicate. |
| 3 Jack is one of few who have been given a company car. | 6 often know far more about computers than their parents. |

24 Fill in *the* where necessary.

Dear Sarah,
How have you been? My family and I have just returned from a five-day holiday in
1) Spain. It was great! We travelled by 2) plane and arrived at
3) airport in 4) Madrid on 5) Sunday. The next day we went
sightseeing and visited 6) Prado Museum and 7) Escorial Palace where
8) King of Spain lives. Of all European cities I think Madrid is 9) most
beautiful! We stayed there for 10) two days and then spent three days touring
some of 11) Spanish islands. I liked 12) Spanish people very much but I
found it very difficult to understand 13) language. I had taken 14)
Spanish lessons at school but most of 15) locals spoke far too quickly! I really
loved 16) food though; especially 17) paella, a dish made with
seafood and rice. All in all, we had a fantastic holiday and we have decided to come back
to Spain again 18) next summer. Maybe you can come with us? All the best,
Kimberly



25 Underline the correct item.

- 1 Peter likes to drink coffee / **the coffee** in the morning.
- 2 Jim enjoys listening to **radio** / **the radio** in the evenings.
- 3 **Teenagers** / **The teenagers** usually like playing video games.
- 4 I would love to travel to **Australia** / **the Australia**.
- 5 Roald Amundsen was the first person to reach **the South Pole/South Pole**.
- 6 James plays **basketball** / **the basketball** twice a week.
- 7 You cut **the cake** / **cake** and I'll pour **tea** / **the tea**.
- 8 **Children** / **The children** have gone to the playground.
- 9 **Life** / **The life** was very different 100 years ago.
- 10 Nathan is learning to play **violin** / **the violin**.
- 11 Look at **dogs** / **the dogs**! They are chasing a cat.
- 12 **Queen Victoria** / **The Queen Victoria** ruled for 63 years.

26 Fill in: a, an or the where necessary.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 A: Did you see <u>the</u> rugby game on Saturday?
B: No, but I read about it. What pity Australia lost!</p> <p>2 A: Have you ever visited Berlin?
B: Yes, I spent a weekend there last spring. We stayed at Regent Hotel.</p> <p>3 A: Is blue bicycle yours?
B: Yes, it's mine.</p> <p>4 A: Do you know anything about Malta?
B: Well, it's island in Mediterranean Sea, near Italy.</p> <p>5 A: How was your trip to Cardiff?
B: It was great. Welsh are such nice people.</p> | <p>6 A: Where were you this morning, Phil?
B: I was reading in library.</p> <p>7 A: Do you buy the paper everyday?
B: Not everyday; I get <i>Telegraph</i> twice week.</p> <p>8 A: I read that Duke of Kent visited organic farm somewhere near Durham.
B: Yes, I heard about that.</p> <p>9 A: Stephanie speaks German very well.
B: Yes, she studied it at university.</p> <p>10 A: Have you ever seen live shark?
B: Yes. It was at city aquarium last summer.</p> |
|---|---|

27 Underline the correct item.

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