

2018/2019 – PREPA 2

## GRAMMAR

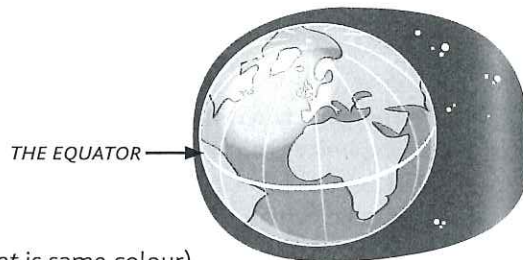
English Grammar in Use

# The 1

A

We use **the** when there is only one of something:

- Have you ever crossed **the equator**?  
(there is only one equator)
- What's **the longest river in Europe**?
- Our apartment is on **the tenth floor**.
- Buenos Aires is **the capital of Argentina**.
- I'm going away at **the end of this month**.



We use **the** before **same (the same)**:

- Your sweater is **the same** colour as mine. (*not* is same colour)
- 'Are these keys **the same**?' 'No, they're different.'

B

We say:

<b>the sun</b>	<b>the moon</b>	<b>the earth</b>	<b>the world</b>	<b>the universe</b>
<b>the sky</b>	<b>the sea</b>	<b>the ground</b>	<b>the environment</b>	<b>the internet</b>

- I love to look at the stars in **the sky**. (*not* in sky)
- The internet** has changed the way we live.
- We need to do more to protect **the environment**. (= the natural world around us)
- The earth** goes round **the sun**, and **the moon** goes round **the earth**.

We also use 'Earth' (without **the**) when we think of it as a planet in space (like **Mars, Jupiter** etc.).

- Which planet is nearest **Earth**?

We say **space** (without **the**) when we mean 'space in the universe'. Compare

- There are millions of stars **in space**. (*not* in the space)
- I tried to park my car, but **the space** was too small.

We use **a/an** to say what kind of thing something is (see Unit 71B). Compare **the** and **a**:

- The** sun is **a** star. (= one of many stars)
- The** hotel we stayed at was **a** very nice hotel.

C

We say: (go to) **the cinema, the theatre**.

- I go to **the cinema** a lot, but I haven't been to **the theatre** for ages.

When we say **the cinema / the theatre**, we do not necessarily mean a specific cinema or theatre.

We usually say **the radio**, but **television/TV** (without **the**). Compare:

- I listen to **the radio** a lot. *but* I watch **television** a lot.
- We heard it on **the radio**. *but* We watched it on **TV**.

**The television / the TV** = the television set:

- Can you turn off **the television**, please?

D

We do not normally use **the** with **breakfast/lunch/dinner**:

- What did you have for **breakfast**?
- We had **lunch** in a very nice restaurant.

But we use **a/an** if we say 'a **big lunch**', 'a **wonderful dinner**', 'an **early breakfast**' etc. :

- We had **a very nice lunch**. (*not* We had very nice lunch)

E

We do *not* use **the** before *noun + number*. For example, we say:

- Our train leaves from **Platform 5**. (*not* the Platform 5)
- (*in a shop*) Do you have these shoes in **size 43**? (*not* the size 43)

In the same way, we say: **Room 126** (in a hotel), **page 29** (of a book), **question 3** (in an exam), **Gate 10** (at an airport) etc.



A

Compare **school** and **the school**:

Ellie is ten years old. Every day she goes **to school**. She's **at school** now. **School** starts at 9 and finishes at 3.

We say a child goes **to school** or is **at school** (as a student). We are not thinking of a specific school. We are thinking of **school** as a general idea – children learning in a classroom.



Today Ellie's mother wants to speak to her daughter's teacher. So she has gone to **the school** to see her. She's at **the school** now. Ellie's mother is not a student. She is not 'at school', she doesn't 'go to school'. If she wants to see Ellie's teacher, she goes to **the school** (=Ellie's school, a specific building).

B

We use **prison** (or **jail**), **hospital**, **university**, **college** and **church** in a similar way. We do not use **the** when we are thinking of the general idea of these places and what they are used for. Compare:

- Ken's brother is **in prison** for robbery. (He is a prisoner. We are not thinking of a specific prison.)
  - Joe had an accident last week. He was taken **to hospital**. He's still **in hospital** now. (as a patient)
  - When I leave school, I plan to go **to university** / go **to college**. (as a student)
  - Sally's father goes **to church** every Sunday. (to take part in a religious service)
- Ken went to **the prison** to visit his brother. (He went as a visitor, not as a prisoner.)
  - Jane has gone to **the hospital** to visit Joe. She's at **the hospital** now. (as a visitor, not as a patient)
  - I went to **the university** to meet Professor Thomas. (as a visitor, not as a student)
  - Some workmen went to **the church** to repair the roof. (not for a religious service)

With most other places, you need **the**. For example, **the station**, **the cinema**, (see Units 72C and 73C).

C

We say **go to bed** / **be in bed** etc. (not the bed):

- I'm going **to bed** now. Goodnight.
  - Do you ever have breakfast **in bed**?
- but  I sat down on **the bed**. (a specific piece of furniture)

**go to work** / **be at work** / **start work** / **finish work** etc. (not the work):

- Chris didn't go to **work** yesterday.
- What time do you usually finish **work**?

**go home** / **come home** / **arrive home** / **get home** / **be at home** etc. :

- It's late. Let's go **home**.
- Will you be at **home** tomorrow afternoon?

D

We say **go to sea** / **be at sea** (without **the**) when the meaning is 'go/be on a voyage':

- Keith works on ships. He's **at sea** most of the time.
- but  I'd like to live near **the sea**.
- It can be dangerous to swim in **the sea**.

The → Units 72–73, 75–78      Prepositions (at school / in hospital etc.) → Units 123–125  
Home → Unit 126C      American English → Appendix 7



## The 3 (children / the children)

A

When we are talking about things or people in general, we do *not* use **the**:

- I'm afraid of **dogs**. (*not* the dogs)  
(**dogs** = dogs in general, not a specific group of dogs)
- Doctors** are usually paid more than **teachers**.
- Do you know anybody who collects **stamps**?
- Crime** is a problem in most big cities. (*not* The crime)
- Life** has changed a lot in the last thirty years. (*not* The life)
- Do you like **classical music** / **Chinese food** / **fast cars**?
- My favourite sport is **football/skiing/athletics**.
- My favourite subject at school was **history/physics/English**.



We say '**most** people / **most** books / **most** cars' etc. (*not* the most ...):

- Most shops** accept credit cards. (*not* The most shops)

B

We use **the** when we mean specific things or people.

Compare:

*In general (without the)*

- Children** learn from playing.  
(= children in general)
- I couldn't live without **music**.
- All **cars** have wheels.
- Sugar** isn't very good for you.
- English people** drink a lot of tea.  
(= English people in general)

*Specific people or things (with the)*

- We took **the children** to the zoo.  
(= a specific group, perhaps the speaker's children)
- The film wasn't very good, but I liked **the music**. (= the music in the film)
- All **the cars in this car park** belong to people who work here.
- Can you pass **the sugar**, please?  
(= the sugar on the table)
- The English people I know** drink a lot of tea. (= only the English people I know, not English people in general)

C

The difference between 'something in general' and 'something specific' is not always very clear. Compare:

*In general (without the)*

- I like working with **people**.  
(= people in general)
- I like working with **people who say what they think**. (not all people, but 'people who say what they think' is still a general idea)
- Do you like **coffee**?  
(= coffee in general)
- Do you like **strong black coffee**?  
(not all coffee, but 'strong black coffee' is still a general idea)

*Specific people or things (with the)*

- I like **the people I work with**.  
(= a specific group of people)
- I didn't like **the coffee we had after dinner**.  
(= specific coffee)

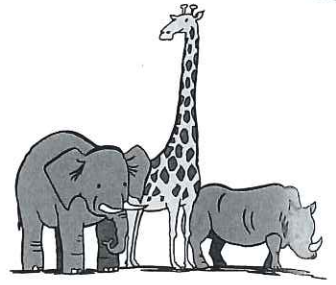


The 4 (the giraffe / the telephone / the piano etc. ;  
the + adjective)

A

Study these sentences:

- The giraffe** is the tallest of all animals.
- The bicycle** is an excellent means of transport.
- When was **the telephone** invented?
- The dollar** is the currency of the United States.

In these examples, **the ...** does not mean one specific thing.**The giraffe** = a specific type of animal, not a specific giraffe.We use **the** in this way to talk about a type of animal, machine etc.In the same way we use **the** for musical instruments:

- Can you play **the** guitar?
- The** piano is my favourite instrument.

Compare **a** and **the**:

- I'd like to have **a piano**.      *but*    I can't play **the piano**.
- We saw **a giraffe** at the zoo.    *but*    **The giraffe** is my favourite animal.

Note that we use **man** (= human beings in general / the human race) without **the**:

- What do you know about the origins of **man**? (*not* the man)

B

**The + adjective**We use **the + adjective** (without a noun) to talk about groups of people. For example:

<b>the young</b>	<b>the rich</b>	<b>the sick</b>	<b>the injured</b>
<b>the old</b>	<b>the poor</b>	<b>the disabled</b>	<b>the dead</b>
<b>the elderly</b>	<b>the homeless</b>	<b>the unemployed</b>	

**The young** = young people, **the rich** = rich people etc. :

- Do you think **the rich** should pay higher taxes?
- We need to do more to help **the homeless**.

**The young / the rich / the injured** etc. are *plural* in meaning. For example, you cannot say 'a young' or 'the injured' for one person. You must say 'a young **person**', 'the injured **woman**' etc.Note that we say 'the **poor**' (*not* the poors), 'the **young**' (*not* the youngs) etc.

C

**The + nationality**You can use **the + nationality** adjectives that end in **-ch** or **-sh** (**the French / the English / the Spanish** etc.). The meaning is 'the people of that country':

- The French** are famous for their food. (= the people of France)

**The French / the English** etc. are plural in meaning. We do not say 'a French / an English'. You have to say **a Frenchman / an Englishwoman** etc.We also use **the + nationality** words ending in **-ese** (**the Chinese / the Sudanese / the Japanese** etc.):

- The Chinese** invented printing.

But these words can also be singular (**a Chinese, a Japanese** etc.).*Note also:* **a Swiss** (singular) and **the Swiss** (= the people of Switzerland)With other nationalities, the plural noun ends in **-s**. For example:**an Italian** → **Italians**    **a Mexican** → **Mexicans**    **a Turk** → **Turks**With these words (**Italians** etc.), we do not normally use **the** to talk about the people in general (see Unit 75).



# Names with and without **the** 1

A

We do *not* use **the** with names of people ('Helen', 'Helen Taylor' etc.). In the same way, we do *not* use **the** with most names of places. For example:

*continents*  
*countries, states etc.*  
*islands*  
*cities, towns etc.*  
*mountains*

Africa (*not* the Africa), Europe, South America  
France (*not* the France), Japan, Brazil, Texas  
Sicily, Bermuda, Tasmania  
Cairo, New York, Bangkok  
Everest, Etna, Kilimanjaro



But we use **the** in names with **Republic, Kingdom, States** etc. :

**the** Czech **Republic**                      **the** United **Kingdom** (**the** UK)  
**the** Dominican **Republic**                **the** United **States** of America (**the** USA)

Compare:

Have you been to **Canada** or **the United States**?

B

When we use **Mr/Mrs/Captain/Doctor** etc. + a name, we do not use **the**. So we say:

**Mr** Johnson / **Doctor** Johnson / **Captain** Johnson / **President** Johnson etc. (*not* the ...)  
**Uncle** Robert / **Saint** Catherine / **Princess** Maria etc. (*not* the ...)

Compare:

We called **the doctor**.  
We called **Doctor** Johnson. (*not* the Doctor Johnson)

We use **Mount** (= mountain) and **Lake** before a name in the same way (without **the**):

**Mount** Everest (*not* the ...)      **Mount** Etna      **Lake** Superior      **Lake** Victoria

They live near **the lake**.  
They live near **Lake Superior**. (*not* the Lake Superior)

C

We use **the** with the names of oceans, seas, rivers and canals:

**the** Atlantic (Ocean)                      **the** Red Sea                      **the** Amazon  
**the** Indian Ocean                        **the** Channel (between      **the** Nile  
**the** Mediterranean (Sea)                France and Britain)      **the** Suez Canal

We use **the** with the names of deserts:

**the** Sahara (Desert)                      **the** Gobi Desert

D

We use **the** with *plural* names of people and places:

<i>people</i>	<b>the</b> Taylors (= the Taylor family), <b>the</b> Johnsons
<i>countries</i>	<b>the</b> Netherlands, <b>the</b> Philippines, <b>the</b> United States
<i>groups of islands</i>	<b>the</b> Canaries / <b>the</b> Canary Islands, <b>the</b> Bahamas
<i>mountain ranges</i>	<b>the</b> Rocky Mountains / <b>the</b> Rockies, <b>the</b> Andes, <b>the</b> Alps

The highest mountain in **the Andes** is (**Mount**) **Aconcagua**.

E

We say:

**the north** (of Brazil)                      *but*      **northern** Brazil (*without* the)  
**the south-east** (of Spain)                *but*      **south-eastern** Spain

Compare:

Sweden is in **northern Europe**; Spain is in **the south**.

Also **the** Middle East, **the** Far East

We also use **north/south** etc. (without **the**) in the names of some regions and countries:

**North America**      **South Africa**

Note that on maps, **the** is not usually included in the name.



## Names with and without the 2

## A

Names without **the**We do not use **the** with names of most city streets/roads/squares/parks etc. :

Union <b>Street</b> ( <i>not the ...</i> )	Fifth <b>Avenue</b>	Hyde <b>Park</b>
Queens <b>Road</b>	<b>Broadway</b>	Times <b>Square</b>

Names of important public buildings and institutions (for example, airports, stations, universities) are often two words:

**Manchester Airport**      **Harvard University**The first word is the name of a place ('Manchester') or a person ('Harvard'). These names are usually without **the**. In the same way, we say:

<b>Victoria Station</b> ( <i>not the ...</i> )	<b>Canterbury Cathedral</b>	<b>Edinburgh Castle</b>
<b>Buckingham Palace</b>	<b>Cambridge University</b>	<b>Sydney Harbour</b>

Compare:

**Buckingham Palace** (*not the ...*) *but* **the Royal Palace**  
(*'Royal'* is an adjective – it is not a name like *'Buckingham'*.)

## B

Most other buildings have names with **the**. For example:

<i>hotels</i>	<b>the</b> Sheraton Hotel, <b>the</b> Holiday Inn
<i>theatres/cinemas</i>	<b>the</b> Palace Theatre, <b>the</b> Odeon (cinema)
<i>museums/galleries</i>	<b>the</b> Guggenheim Museum, <b>the</b> National Gallery
<i>other buildings</i>	<b>the</b> Empire State (Building), <b>the</b> White House, <b>the</b> Eiffel Tower

We often leave out the noun:

**the Sheraton** (Hotel)      **the Palace** (Theatre)      **the Guggenheim** (Museum)Some names are only **the** + *noun*, for example:**the Acropolis**      **the Kremlin**      **the Pentagon**

## C

Names with **of** usually have **the**. For example:

<b>the</b> Bank <b>of</b> England	<b>the</b> Museum <b>of</b> Modern Art
<b>the</b> Great Wall <b>of</b> China	<b>the</b> Tower <b>of</b> London

Note that we say:

**the** University **of** Cambridge *but* **Cambridge University** (*without the*)

## D

Many shops, restaurants, hotels, banks etc. are named after people. These names end in *-s* or *-s*.We do not use **the** with these names:

<b>McDonald's</b> ( <i>not the ...</i> )	<b>Barclays</b> (bank)
<b>Joe's Diner</b> (restaurant)	<b>Macy's</b> (department store)

Churches are often named after saints (St = Saint):

**St John's Church** (*not the St Johns Church*)      **St Patrick's Cathedral**

## E

Most newspapers and many organisations have names with **the**:

<i>newspapers</i>	<b>the</b> Washington Post, <b>the</b> Financial Times, <b>the</b> Sun
<i>organisations</i>	<b>the</b> European Union, <b>the</b> BBC, <b>the</b> Red Cross

Names of companies, airlines etc. are usually without **the**:

<b>Fiat</b> ( <i>not the Fiat</i> )	<b>Sony</b>	<b>Singapore Airlines</b>
<b>Kodak</b>	<b>IBM</b>	<b>Yale University Press</b>