

Do not use *the*

When talking about things in general:

***Women** love it when **men** send them **flowers**!*

***Houses** are expensive in that neighbourhood.*

Companies** in Canada pay very high **taxes

with non-count nouns:

*I love **chocolate**!*

*Have you eaten **lunch** yet?*

*She's a vegetarian. She doesn't eat **meat**.*

*I love listening to **music***

***Rice** is an important food in Asia.*

***Milk** is often added to tea in England.*

***War** is destructive.*

with the names of meals.

***Lunch** is my favorite meal.*

*I like to eat **breakfast** early.*

with titles when combined with names.

***Prince Charles** is **Queen Elizabeth's** son.*

***President Kennedy** was killed in Dallas.*

with holidays

*I got my mom a movie ticket for **Mother's Day**.*

*What are you doing on **Valentine's Day**?*

with names of countries, states, cities, towns, continents, single lakes, single mountains.

Mt. Fuji** is the highest mountain in **Japan

***Mt. Rosa** is part of the Alps mountain range*

***Lake Ontario** and **Lake Huron** are 2 of the **Great Lakes**.*

Paris** is the capital of **France

With Companies

***Bill Gates** founded **Microsoft**.*

***Wal-Mart** is the largest employer in the U.S.*

with Universities

*Her son graduated from **Harvard**.*

*He applied to **Cambridge**, **Yale**, and **Stanford***

**However, if the name of the university begins with 'University,' then you must use 'the'*

*He has a master's degree from **the University of Toronto***

With subjects you study at school:

*I have never studied **geography**, but I have always loved **history***

With Languages

*I am studying **Russian***

*In **Brazil** people speak **Portuguese***

English uses many words of Latin origin.

With places, locations, streets

*I have to go to **work***

*My office is located on **Main street***

*He was found guilty of murder and sent to **jail** for life*

*Good night everyone! I'm going to **bed***

*When I was in **high school**, everyone had to study French*

With Sports and other physical activities

*I play **football** every day after school*

*She tries to do **yoga** at least 3 times a week*

*My daughter really enjoys **dancing***

with Noun + number

*He's staying at the Hilton hotel in **room 221***

*The train to Paris leaves from **platform 2***

with Acronyms

If the acronym is **pronounced** as a word (not individual letters)

***NATO** ambassadors met to discuss the situation*

***UNESCO** was formed in 1946*

Before university acronyms:

*John Smith got his **MBA** at **UCLA**.*

*She has a **Ph.D.** from **MIT**.*

EXCEPTION:

You need to use 'the' before acronyms of organizations & countries when the letters are **pronounced** individually, not as a word.

The UN was created after the Second World War

the EU ; the UN ; the CIA ; the FBI ; the KGB

with the names of illnesses or diseases.

*Dr. Smith visits schools and universities to educate students on **AIDS**.*

*Oncologists are doctors who specialize in treating **cancer**.*

*There are several medications that can be used to treat **malaria**.*

HOWEVER: There are some illnesses which require **THE**.

the measles (MORBILLO)

the flu

the mumps (PAROTITE)

the bubonic plague

USE The

To refer to something which has already been mentioned.

*On Monday, an unarmed man stole \$1,000 from the bank. **The thief** hasn't been caught yet*

*There's a position available in my team. **The job** will involve some international travel*

when you assume there is just one of something in that place, even if it has not been mentioned before

*Where is **the bathroom**?*

*Turn left and go to number 45. Our house is across from **the Italian restaurant***

in sentences or clauses where you define or identify a particular person or object.

*I scratched **the red car** parked outside*

*He is **the doctor** I came to see*

to refer to people or objects that are unique

***The sun** rose at 6:17 this morning*

*You can go anywhere in **the world***

*Clouds drifted across **the sky***

***The president** will be speaking on TV tonight*

***The CEO** of Total is coming to our meeting*

before superlatives and ordinal numbers.

*This is **the highest building** in New York*

*This is **the third time** I have called you today*

with adjectives, to refer to a whole group of people.

The French enjoy cheese

The elderly require special attention

*She has given a lot of money to **the poor***

with decades

*This is a painting from **the 1820's***

*He was born in **the seventies**.*

BUT Do not use *the* with years

1948 was a wonderful year.

He was born in 1995.

with clauses introduced by only

*This is **the only** day we've had sunshine all week*

***The only** tea I like is black tea*

with names of geographical areas, rivers, mountain ranges, groups of islands, canals, and oceans.

*Hiking across **the Rocky Mountains** would be difficult*

*Our ship crossed **the Atlantic** in 7 days.*

*I will go on a cruise down **the Nile***

with countries that have plural names

*I have never been to **the Netherlands***

*Do you know anyone who lives in **the Philippines**?*

with countries that include the words "republic", "kingdom", or "states" in their names.

*She is visiting **the United States***

*James is from **the Republic of Ireland***

with newspaper names.

*I read it in **the Guardian***

*She works for **the New York Times***

with the names of famous buildings, works of art, museums, or monuments.

*Have you been to **the Vietnam Memorial**?*

*I would like to visit **the Eiffel Tower**.*

*I saw King Lear at **the Globe***

*We went to **the Louvre** and saw **the Mona Lisa**.*

with the names of hotels & restaurants, unless these are named after a person.

*They are staying at **the Hilton** on 6th street.*

*We ate at **the Golden Lion**.*

plus a singular noun when making generalizations:

musical instruments (the piano) ; plants (the coconut palm) ; animals (the leopard)

inventions (the light bulb) ; currencies (the euro)