

"THE" or nothing?

1. Main rule:

The definite article "**the**" (invariable in form) designates a person, place, or event **which has been specified or defined by the speaker**:

Here's **the** book I bought.

The cat is on the roof.

He said he would bring **the** money.

2. Omission of the definite article

No article is necessary in the following cases:

2.1 Before **abstract nouns** or **nouns representing general categories**. It is often omitted after **verbs expressing opinions or preferences**:

Truth is the highest good.

I don't like **animals**.

Cats are nicer than dogs.

Time flies.

She **likes** coffee, but she **hates** tea.

2.2 Before **days of the week** and **dates**:

On **Tuesdays** museums are closed.

On **Saturdays** I sleep in.

I was born on **June 16, 1980**.

2.3 Before names of **countries, states, cities, and regions**:

France is seventeen times smaller than **the United States**.

California is larger than **Brittany**.

Exception: Some names actually include the definite article, such as **The Hague, the United States (of America)**

2.4. Before **titles** or nouns indicating **professions**:

President Mitterrand completed two terms.

We saw **Professor Miller** at the restaurant.

She met with **Doctor Schmidt**.



TEST: Add the definite article "THE" when it is required.

- 1) I've just seen _____ latest movie by Spielberg.
- 2) _____ freedom is the best thing on Earth.
- 3) _____ Prince Charles will be a good King.
- 4) _____ boy sitting there is called John.
- 5) I really like _____ Queen Elizabeth III.
- 6) I don't like _____ vegetables.
- 7) On _____ Sundays, I sleep all day long.
- 8) _____ house we've just visited is the most expensive.
- 9) _____ life is so boring!
- 10) _____ Spain is a very nice country!

ANSWERS 1. the | 2. X | 3. X | 4. The | 5. X | 6. X | 7. X | 8. The | 9. X | 10. X