

# Article *The* vs. No Article

The article *the* in English grammar points out a noun (person, animal, thing, idea, etc.) indifferently from its gender, or if this is singular or plural.

Contrary to the article *a/an* you have studied previously, which points out singular nouns inferring a sense of generality on these (e.g. *an apple, a man, a car*), the article *the* gives them (nouns) a sense of specificity.

Here are some cases where the article *the* is required:

- When there is only one, or it is unique in a certain universe or of things.  
For example: *the sun, the moon, the Pope, the Eiffel Tower, the Cathedral.*

- When we have mentioned it previously; there is an antecedent of it in a discourse.

For example (the antecedent is underlined): *I invite you to my party this Friday at Flag's Restaurant. *The party starts at 9:00 pm.**

- When we want to ascribe all the equals referred to a noun.

For example: *The tiger is a carnivore animal.*

*The brain internalizes and stores the information received.*

*The T-Rex extinguished millions of years ago.*

# Article *The* vs. No Article

- When we refer to some geographical features, families, organizations, some countries, musical instruments, etc.

For example: *the Atlantic Ocean, the Nile River, the Caspian Sea.*

*the Robinsons, the Simpsons, the Caseys.*

*the United Nations, the CIA, the FBI.*

*the United Kingdom, the Philippines, the Netherlands.*

*the piano, the guitar, the drums, the oboe, the flute.*

We must avoid using the article *the* in cases like the following:

- When we refer to general ideas, including plural and uncountable nouns.

For example: ~~The~~ Education is quite important in all societies.

Money cannot always be the solution to problems.

Mothers have a special sense of intuition.

- When we refer to continents, lakes, planets, sports, meals, etc.:

For example: ~~The~~ Africa

Lake Titicaca

Jupiter

Baseball

Breakfast