

A

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

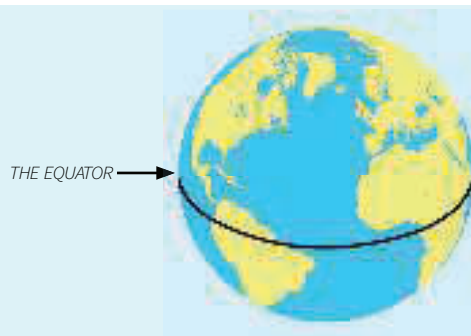
- ☐ Have you ever crossed **the equator**?
(there is only one equator)
- ☐ Our apartment is on **the tenth floor**.
- ☐ Buenos Aires is **the capital of Argentina**.
- ☐ I'm going away at **the end of this month**.

We use **the** + *superlative* (**best**, **oldest** etc.):

- ☐ What's **the longest river in Europe**?

Compare **the** and **a/an** (see also Units 71–72):

- ☐ **The sun** is **a star**. (= one of many stars)
- ☐ **The hotel** where we stayed was **a very old hotel**.
- ☐ We live in **an apartment** on **the tenth floor**.
- ☐ What's **the best way** to learn **a language**?



B

We say '**the same**':

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

C

We say: **the world** **the universe** **the sun** **the moon** **the earth**
the sky **the sea** **the ground** **the country** (= not a town)

- ☐ I love to look at the stars in **the sky**. (*not* in sky)
- ☐ Do you live in a town or in **the country**?
- ☐ **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 is the planet 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.

D

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.

TV / television (without **the**), but **the radio**

- ☐ I watch **TV** a lot, but I don't listen to **the radio** much.

but Can you turn off **the television**, please? (**the** television = the TV set)

the internet

- ☐ **The internet** has changed the way we live.

E

We usually say **breakfast/lunch/dinner** (without **the**):

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

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

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

F

We say: **size 43**, **platform 5** etc. (without **the**)

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

In the same way, we say: **room 126**, **page 29**, **vitamin A**, **section B** etc.

Exercises

73.1 Put in *the* or *a* where necessary. If no word is necessary, leave the space empty.

- 1 A: Our apartment is on the tenth floor.
B: Is it? I hope there's lift.
- 2 A: Did you have nice holiday?
B: Yes, it was best holiday I've ever had.
- 3 A: Where's nearest shop?
B: There's one at end of this street.
- 4 A: It's lovely day, isn't it?
B: Yes, there isn't cloud in sky.
- 5 A: We spent all our money because we stayed at most expensive hotel in town.
B: Why didn't you stay at cheaper hotel?
- 6 A: Would you like to travel in space?
B: Yes, I'd love to go to moon.
- 7 A: What did you think of movie last night?
B: It was OK, but I thought ending was a bit strange.
- 8 A: What's Jupiter? Is it star?
B: No, it's planet. It's largest planet in solar system.

73.2 Which is right? (For *the*, see also Unit 72.)

- 1 I haven't been to cinema / the cinema for ages. (*the cinema is correct*)
- 2 Sarah spends most of her free time watching TV / the TV.
- 3 Do you ever listen to radio / the radio?
- 4 Television / The television was on, but nobody was watching it.
- 5 Have you had dinner / the dinner yet?
- 6 It's confusing when two people have same name / the same name.
- 7 What do you want for breakfast / for the breakfast?
- 8 Fruit is an important source of vitamin C / the vitamin C.
- 9 This computer is not connected to internet / the internet.
- 10 I lay down on ground / the ground and looked up at sky / the sky.
- 11 Next train / The next train to London leaves from platform 3 / the platform 3.

73.3 Put in *the* or *a* where necessary. (For *a* and *the* see also Units 71–72.)

- 1 Sun is star. The sun is a star.
- 2 I'm fed up with doing same thing every day.
- 3 Room 25 is on second floor.
- 4 It was very hot day. It was hottest day of year.
- 5 We had lunch in nice restaurant by sea.
- 6 What's on at cinema this week?
- 7 I had big breakfast this morning.
- 8 You'll find information you need at top of page 15.

73.4 Complete the sentences. Choose from the box and use *the* where necessary.

breakfast cinema gate Gate 24 ~~lunch~~ question question 3 sea

- 1 I'm hungry. It's time for lunch.
- 2 There was no wind, so was very calm.
- 3 Most of the questions in the test were OK, but I couldn't answer
- 4 'I'm going to tonight.' 'Are you? What are you going to see?'
- 5 I'm sorry, but could you repeat, please?
- 6 I didn't have this morning because I was in a hurry.
- 7 (*airport announcement*) Flight AB123 to Rome is now boarding at
- 8 I forgot to shut Can you shut it for me?