

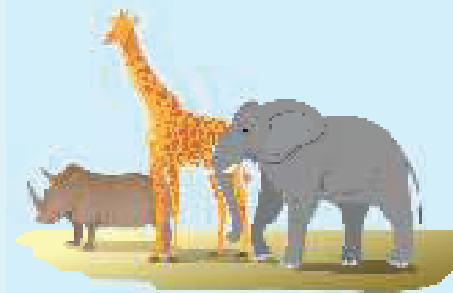
the 4 (the giraffe / the telephone / the old etc.)

A

Study these sentences:

- ☐ **The giraffe** is the tallest of all animals.
- ☐ **The bicycle** is an excellent means of transport.
- ☐ When was **the camera** 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 **man** (without **the**) = human beings in general, the human race:

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

B

the old, the rich etc.

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

the old	the rich	the homeless	the sick
the elderly	the poor	the unemployed	the injured

the old = old people, **the rich** = rich people etc. :

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

Note that we say: the **old** (*not* the olds), the **poor** (*not* the poors) etc.

The rich, the homeless etc. are *plural*. For one person, we say:

a rich man (*not* a rich) **a homeless person** (*not* a homeless)

C

the French, the Chinese etc.

We use **the** + a few nationality adjectives that end in **-ch** or **-sh**. For example:

the French the Dutch the British the English the Spanish

The meaning is *plural* – the people of that country.

- ☐ **The French** are famous for their food. (*not* French are ...)

We do not say 'a French' or 'an English' (*singular*). For example, we say:

- ☐ I met **a French woman** / **an English guy**.

We also use **the** + nationality words ending in **-ese** or **-ss**. For example:

the Chinese the Portuguese the Swiss

These words can also be singular (**a Chinese, a Swiss** etc.).

With other nationality words, the plural ends in **-s** (usually without **the**). For example:

an Italian → **Italians** a Mexican → **Mexicans** a Thai → **Thais**

- ☐ **Italians / Mexicans / Thais** are very friendly.

In all cases you can use *adjective* + **people**. For example, you can say:

- ☐ **French / Chinese / Mexican** people are very friendly.

Exercises

76.1 Answer the questions. Choose the right answer from the box. Don't forget **the**.

1

animals

tiger elephant
rabbit cheetah
giraffe kangaroo

2

birds

eagle penguin
swan owl
parrot pigeon

3

inventions

telephone wheel
telescope laser
helicopter typewriter

4

currencies

dollar peso
euro rupee
rouble yen

- 1 a Which of the animals is the tallest?
b Which animal can run the fastest?
c Which of these animals is found in Australia?
- 2 a Which of these birds has a long neck?
b Which of these birds cannot fly?
c Which bird flies at night?
- 3 a Which of these inventions is the oldest?
b Which one is the most recent?
c Which one was especially important for astronomy?
- 4 a What is the currency of India?
b What is the currency of Canada?
c And the currency of your country?

the giraffe

76.2 Put in **the** or **a**.

- 1 When was *the* telephone invented?
- 2 Can you play musical instrument?
- 3 Jessica plays violin in an orchestra.
- 4 There was piano in the corner of the room.
- 5 I wish I could play piano.
- 6 Our society is based on family.
- 7 Martin comes from large family.
- 8 computer has changed the way we live.
- 9 When was bicycle invented?
- 10 Do you have car?

76.3 Complete these sentences. Use **the** + adjective. Choose from:

elderly injured rich sick unemployed ~~young~~

- 1 *The young* have the future in their hands.
- 2 Helen is a nurse. She's spent her life caring for
- 3 Life is all right if you have a job, but things are hard for
- 4 Ambulances arrived at the scene of the accident and took to hospital.
- 5 More and more people are living longer. How are we going to care for?
- 6 It's nice to have lots of money, but have their problems too.

76.4 What do you call the people of these countries?

- | | <i>one person (a/an ...)</i> | <i>the people in general</i> |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Canada | <i>a Canadian</i> | <i>Canadians</i> |
| 2 Germany | | |
| 3 France | | |
| 4 Russia | | |
| 5 Japan | | |
| 6 Brazil | | |
| 7 England | | |
| 8 and your country | | |