

Names with and without **the** 1

A

We do *not* use **the** with names of people ('Helen', 'Helen Taylor' etc.). In the same way, we do *not* use **the** with most names of places. For example:

*continents*  
*countries, states etc.*  
*islands*  
*cities, towns etc.*  
*mountains*

**Africa** (*not the Africa*), **South America**  
**France** (*not the France*), **Japan**, **Texas**  
**Sicily**, **Tasmania**  
**Cairo**, **Bangkok**  
**Everest**, **Kilimanjaro**



But we normally use **the** in names with **Republic**, **Kingdom**, **States** etc. :

**the** Czech **Republic**      **the** United **Kingdom** (**the** UK)  
**the** Dominican **Republic**      **the** United **States** of America (**the** USA)

Compare:

☐ Have you been to **Canada** or **the United States**?

B

When we use **Mr/Ms/Captain/Doctor** etc. + a name, we do not use **the**. So we say:

**Mr** Johnson / **Doctor** Johnson / **Captain** Johnson / **President** Johnson etc. (*not the ...*)  
**Uncle** Robert / **Saint** Catherine / **Queen** Catherine etc. (*not the ...*)

Compare:

☐ We called **the doctor**.  
We called **Doctor** Johnson. (*not the Doctor Johnson*)

We use **Mount** (= mountain) and **Lake** before a name in the same way (without **the**):

**Mount** Everest (*not the ...*)      **Mount** Etna      **Lake** Superior      **Lake** Victoria

☐ They live near **the lake**.  
They live near **Lake Superior**. (*not the Lake Superior*)

C

We use **the** with the names of oceans, seas, rivers and canals:

**the** Atlantic (Ocean)      **the** Red Sea      **the** Amazon  
**the** Indian Ocean      **the** Channel (between      **the** Nile  
**the** Mediterranean (Sea)      France and Britain)      **the** Suez Canal

We use **the** with the names of deserts:

**the** Sahara (Desert)      **the** Gobi Desert

D

We use **the** with *plural* names of people and places:

*people*  
*countries*  
*groups of islands*  
*mountain ranges*

**the** Taylors (= the Taylor family), **the** Johnsons  
**the** Netherlands, **the** Philippines, **the** United States  
**the** Canaries (*or the* Canary Islands), **the** Bahamas  
**the** Andes, **the** Alps, **the** Urals

☐ The highest mountain in **the Andes** is (Mount) Aconcagua.

E

We say:

**the north** (of Brazil)      *but*      **northern** Brazil (*without the*)  
**the southeast** (of Spain)      *but*      **southeastern** Spain

Compare:

☐ Sweden is in **northern Europe**; Spain is in **the south**.

We also use **north/south** etc. (*without the*) in the names of some regions and countries:

**North America**      **South Africa**      **southeast Asia**

Note that on maps, **the** is not usually included in the name.

# Exercises

## 77.1 Which is right?

- 1 Who is Doctor Johnson / the Doctor Johnson? (Doctor Johnson is correct)
- 2 I was ill. Doctor / The doctor told me to rest for a few days.
- 3 Doctor Thomas / The Doctor Thomas is an expert on heart disease.
- 4 I'm looking for Professor Brown / the Professor Brown. Do you know where she is?
- 5 In the United States, President / the President is elected for four years.
- 6 President Kennedy / The President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.
- 7 The officer I spoke to at the police station was Inspector Roberts / the Inspector Roberts.
- 8 Do you know Wilsons / the Wilsons? They're a very nice couple.
- 9 Julia spent three years as a student in United States / the United States.
- 10 France / The France has a population of about 66 million.

## 77.2 Some of these sentences are OK, but some need **the** (sometimes more than once). Correct the sentences where necessary.

- 1 Everest was first climbed in 1953.
- 2 Milan and Turin are cities in north of Italy.
- 3 Africa is much larger than Europe.
- 4 Last year I visited Mexico and United States.
- 5 Southern England is warmer than north.
- 6 Thailand and Cambodia are in southeast Asia.
- 7 Chicago is on Lake Michigan.
- 8 Next year we're going skiing in Swiss Alps.
- 9 UK consists of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- 10 Seychelles are a group of islands in Indian Ocean.
- 11 I've never been to South Africa.
- 12 River Volga flows into Caspian Sea.

OK

in the north of Italy

## 77.3 Here are some geography questions. Choose the right answer from one of the boxes and use **the** if necessary. You do not need all the names in the boxes.

continents	countries	oceans and seas	mountains	rivers and canals
Africa	Canada	<del>Atlantic</del>	Alps	Amazon Rhine
Asia	Denmark	Indian Ocean	Andes	Danube Thames
Australia	Indonesia	Pacific	Himalayas	Nile Volga
Europe	Sweden	Black Sea	Rockies	Suez Canal
North America	Thailand	Mediterranean	Urals	Panama Canal
South America	United States	Red Sea		

- 1 What do you have to cross to travel from Europe to America? the Atlantic
- 2 Where is Argentina? .....
- 3 Which is the longest river in Africa? .....
- 4 Of which country is Stockholm the capital? .....
- 5 Of which country is Washington the capital? .....
- 6 What is the name of the mountain range in the west of North America? .....
- 7 What is the name of the sea between Africa and Europe? .....
- 8 Which is the smallest continent in the world? .....
- 9 What is the name of the ocean between North America and Asia? .....
- 10 What is the name of the ocean between Africa and Australia? .....
- 11 Which river flows through London? .....
- 12 Which river flows through Vienna, Budapest and Belgrade? .....
- 13 Of which country is Bangkok the capital? .....
- 14 What joins the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans? .....
- 15 Which is the longest river in South America? .....