

THE ARTICLE

Indefinite and definite Articles in English

Indefinite articles 'a' and 'an'

Definite article 'the'

1. Use 'the' after you have already mentioned someone/ something for the first time, or if the context tells the listener which object or person you are talking about

I saw **a** rainbow yesterday.

The rainbow (that I saw yesterday) was beautiful.

I consulted **an** optician yesterday.

The optician (that I consulted yesterday) examined my eyes.

Note: 'the' is used for uncountable and plural nouns too.

The rice (that I ate yesterday) was delicious.

The cherries (that I ate yesterday) were tasty.

- Use 'the' when there is only one of someone or something

The British Prime Minister is visiting Japan.

The Internet has brought people closer.

- With nouns which are unique

the Sun, **the** Moon, **the** Acropolis

the countryside, **the** ground, **the** sky

the cinema, **the** theatre, on **the** radio, on **the** television

In **the** morning

In **the** afternoon

In **the** evening

- Use before musical instrument

the guitar, **the** violin, **the** piano, **the** harp

➤ Use 'the' with superlative adjectives

Everest is **the** highest mountain on **the** Earth.

We forget **the** most interesting point.

➤ Use with range of mountains

the Rocky mountains, **the** Andes, **the** Alps

➤ Use with rivers, oceans and sea

The Amazon, **the** Tames, **The** Selenge, **The** Nile

The Pacific Ocean, **The** Atlantic ocean, **The** Red Sea, **The** Black Sea, **The** Mediterranean Sea

➤ Use with hotel, cinema, museum, gallery and restaurants

the Station hotel, **the** Tengis, **the** British Museum, **the** Tate Gallery

➤ Use with newspaper

the Times, the Zuunii medee, the Washington post, the Evening standard

➤ Use with United countries

the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain,
the Russian Federation

➤ Use with nationality

The Mongolians, the Spanish, the French, the British

➤ Use with some adjectives to talk about groups of people

The rich don't know how the poor live.

the weather, on the left, on the right, in the east, in the west, on the table, the first, the second

not using before:

Mount Everest or Everest, Mount Shiliin Bogd,

Lake Baikal, Lake Khuvsgul

Continent: Asia, Europe, Africa, South America

street, avenue, -Sukhbaatar Square, Broadway, Piece Avenue,

Regend Street

Cambridge University, Edinburgh Castle, London Zoo,

Buckingham Palace