

The Definite Article



Use	Example Sentence
The second time you talk about something	A man and a dog were walking. The man and the dog ...
It's clear what you're talking about	Can you close the door?
Prepositional noun The + Noun + Preposition	The interest in the situation was huge
Definite Noun + Adjective Clause (<i>The + Noun + That + Adjective Clause</i>)	The woman that served me was an old friend
Only one exists	The Earth has 7 billion people
Places in town and specific names of places	I'm going to the supermarket
The superlative	That is the biggest building
Ordinal Numbers EXCEPTIONS: a) <i>Ordinal numbers as time sequencers e.g. First, you need to chop the onions. Second, you need to chop the garlic.</i> b) <i>Ordinal numbers as adjectives e.g. First place goes to John. Second place goes to Mary.</i>	My birthday is on the 24 th of April
Musical instruments	He plays the piano
Groups of people (<i>The + adjective</i>)	The unemployed can receive benefits
Institutions	I work for the police
Nations <i>Groups of islands and countries with the word kingdom, united, union or republic in their names</i> <i>*See additional list of these countries</i>	The United Kingdom uses the pound
Rivers, oceans, seas, deserts	The River Nile is in Egypt
Newspapers	I read the Guardian newspaper
Family names	Do you know the Stephenson family?
Institutions	I work for the police
Times of the day *EXCEPTION: At night	I have breakfast in the morning
Prepositions (in, on, at, to, from) + Compass direction	The sun rises in the east and sets in the west
Specific time periods	I'd love to have experienced life in the 1920's
Before same	I have the same watch at you
Body parts with direct objects	She hit me in the face