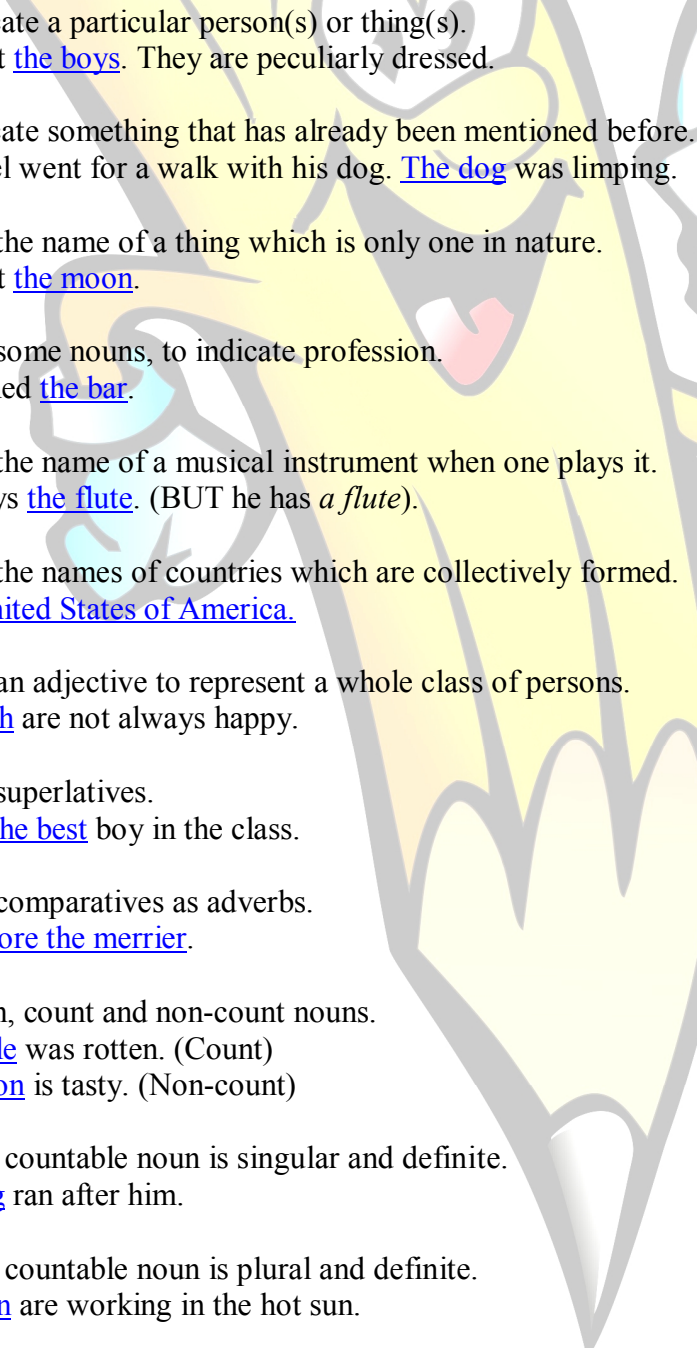


Articles

The definite article – ‘The’

Where to use ‘the’

- 
- ✚ Used to indicate a particular person(s) or thing(s).
Eg. Look at [the boys](#). They are peculiarly dressed.
 - ✚ Used to indicate something that has already been mentioned before.
Eg. Michael went for a walk with his dog. [The dog](#) was limping.
 - ✚ Used before the name of a thing which is only one in nature.
Eg. Look at [the moon](#).
 - ✚ Used before some nouns, to indicate profession.
Eg. He joined [the bar](#).
 - ✚ Used before the name of a musical instrument when one plays it.
Eg. He plays [the flute](#). (BUT he has *a flute*).
 - ✚ Used before the names of countries which are collectively formed.
Eg. [The United States of America](#).
 - ✚ Used before an adjective to represent a whole class of persons.
Eg. [The rich](#) are not always happy.
 - ✚ Used before superlatives.
Eg. He is [the best](#) boy in the class.
 - ✚ Used before comparatives as adverbs.
Eg. [The more the merrier](#).
 - ✚ Used for both, count and non-count nouns.
Eg. [The apple](#) was rotten. (Count)
Eg. [The bacon](#) is tasty. (Non-count)
 - ✚ Used when a countable noun is singular and definite.
Eg. [The dog](#) ran after him.
 - ✚ Used when a countable noun is plural and definite.
Eg. [The men](#) are working in the hot sun.
 - ✚ Used before singular definite nouns.

Eg. The team won the match.

✚ Used before plural definite nouns.

Eg. The members of the parliament cast their votes.

Where *not* to use ‘the’

✚ NOT used before proper nouns. BUT there are exceptions.

- Holy books (The Bible)
- Newspapers (The Oracle)
- Ships (The Titanic)
- Trains (The Rajdhani Express)
- Famous buildings (The Taj Mahal)
- Rivers (The Ganges)
- Seas (The Arabian sea)
- Mountain ranges (The Alps)
- Deserts (The Sahara)
- Directions (Go to the North)

✚ NOT used before the names of:

- Single mountains (Mount Abu)
- Single islands (Srilanka)
- Names of lakes (Lake Chilka)
- Countries (Italy)
- Continents (Europe)

To know more, visit the Writing Centre. 😊

