

Grammar – Articles

When do we Use Article ‘the’ with Proper Nouns in English?

Use ‘the’ with adjective + noun phrases:		Don’t Use ‘the’:	
Category:	Example:	Category:	Example:
rivers canals seas oceans	the River Thames the Suez Canal the Black Sea the Atlantic Ocean	days / months	Monday / February
islands deserts geographic areas mountain ranges	the Channel Islands the Sahara Desert the Welsh countryside the Himalayan mountains	names of people titles of people family members nationalities / religions languages	John / Lisa Mr. John Miller Aunt Maggie Danish / Christianity German
monuments / landmarks organisations eras	the Sydney Opera House the British Museum the Middle Ages	villages / towns cities districts / counties countries lakes / lochs / reservoirs forests street addresses	Lynmouth / Oakham Madrid Bloomsbury / Cheshire Brazil Lake Victoria / Loch Ness Sherwood Forest 14 Primrose Lane
-- people (groups)	-- the Miller family; the Millers; the Spanish	companies / corporations products titles in culture	IKEA / Facebook Heinz Tomato Ketchup Star Trek
Use ‘the’ with ‘_____ of _____’ phrases:		Proper nouns with ‘the’ which don’t fit the rules:	
Category:	Example:	Category:	Example:
Duke of _____ Prince of _____ King / Queen of _____ Kingdom of _____ Republic of _____ State of _____ Isle of _____ Port of _____ [place] of [person]	the Duke of Wellington the Prince of Wales the King of Belgium the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia the Republic of Poland the State of Texas the Isle of Wight the Port of Dover the Ireland of James Joyce	peninsula city country province	the Crimea the Hague the Philippines the Transvaal

Use the information above to help you complete the gaps in the story with either ‘the’ (definite article) or [-] (zero article). Write the number of each gap with the corresponding category above, e.g. ‘days – 1’.

On 1.____ Tuesday 2.____ Mike and 3.____ Green family left their home in 4.____ Lincolnshire and travelled to 5.____ Paris to visit 6.____ Eiffel Tower. Some of them were able to chat to 7.____ French in 8.____ French. They stayed at 9.____ Columbus Hotel, which overlooks 10.____ River Seine. Despite being abroad they ate at 11.____ Burger King every night, apart from when they went to 12.____ Palace of Versailles and took a packed lunch with bottles of 13.____ Evian water. They got the train back to 14.____ London and took a taxi to 15.____ Duke of Clarence – a pub in 16.____ Mayfair, where 17.____ Uncle Gary – or 18.____ Mr. Gary Bradley, to give him his full title – was waiting for them in his 19.____ Honda Accord.

He’d just got back from a lovely cruise with his wife, 20.____ Audrey – who was from 21.____ Philippines. They had cruised around 22.____ Greek islands on the way to 23.____ Israel, where they had particularly enjoyed 24.____ Eilat Mountains, not to mention sailing past 25.____ Suez Canal. Unfortunately there hadn’t been enough time to visit 26.____ Sahara Desert. 27.____ Gary had taken numerous photos of 28.____ Mediterranean Sea with his 29.____ iPhone, while 30.____ Audrey relaxed on board. They were looking forward to another long holiday in 31.____ May – sailing across 32.____ Atlantic Ocean to 33.____ New York via 34.____ Canary Islands. His wife said she couldn’t wait to see 35.____ Statue of Liberty and 36.____ Manhattan. She wanted to buy 37.____ Hugo Boss perfume and walk down 38.____ Fifth Avenue. She’d seen it on 39.____ BBC as part of a new travel programme called 40.____ ‘Wild America’, presented by 41.____ Simon Fox.

As he drove 42.____ Greens back home through 43.____ English countryside, 44.____ Gary explained that he wanted to see 45.____ New York of 46.____ F. Scott Fitzgerald. He was fascinated by 47.____ Jazz Age. He was also keen to see the place in 48.____ Philadelphia – in 49.____ State of Pennsylvania – where 50.____ America’s forefathers signed 51.____ Declaration of Independence. When they got to their house, close to 52.____ Lake Wilton beside 53.____ Wilton Forest, they had a glass of 54.____ Baileys and watched 55.____ ‘Dancing on Ice’ on 56.____ ITV.

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Answers:

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Category:	Example:	Category:	Example:
rivers [10] canals [25] seas [28] oceans [32] islands [22, 34] deserts [26] geographic areas [43] mountain ranges [24] monuments / landmarks [6] organisations [9, 39] eras [47] - - people (groups)	the River Thames the Suez Canal the Black Sea the Atlantic Ocean the Channel Islands the Sahara Desert the Welsh countryside the Himalayan mountains the Sydney Opera House the British Museum the Middle Ages - - the Miller family [3]; the Millers [42]; the Spanish [7]	days [1] / months [31] names of people [2, 20, 27, 30, 41, 44, 46] titles of people [18] family members [17] nationalities / religions languages [8] villages / towns cities [5, 14, 33, 48] districts [16, 36] / counties [4] countries [23, 50] lakes [52] / lochs / reservoirs forests [53] street addresses [38] companies [56] / corporations [11] products [13, 19, 29, 37, 54] titles in culture [40, 55]	Monday / February John / Lisa Mr. John Miller Aunt Maggie Danish / Christianity German Lynmouth / Oakham Madrid Bloomsbury / Cheshire Brazil Lake Victoria / Loch Ness Sherwood Forest 14 Primrose Lane IKEA / Facebook Heinz Tomato Ketchup Star Trek
Use ‘the’ with ‘ ___ of ___ ’ phrases: [12, 35, 51]		Proper nouns with ‘the’ which don’t fit the rules:	
Category:	Example:	Category:	Example:
Duke of ___ [15] Prince of ___ King / Queen of ___ Kingdom of ___ Republic of ___ State of ___ [49] Isle of ___ Port of ___ [place] of [person] [45]	the Duke of Wellington the Prince of Wales the King of Belgium the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia the Republic of Poland the State of Texas the Isle of Wight the Port of Dover the Ireland of James Joyce	peninsula city country [21] province	the Crimea the Hague the Philippines the Transvaal

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As he drove 42. **the** Greens back home through 43. **the** English countryside, 44. [-] Gary explained that he wanted to see 45. **the** New York of 46. [-] F. Scott Fitzgerald. He was fascinated by 47. **the** Jazz Age. He was also keen to see the place in 48. [-] Philadelphia – in 49. **the** State of Pennsylvania – where 50. [-] America’s forefathers signed 51. **the** Declaration of Independence. When they got to their house, close to 52. [-] Lake Wilton beside 53. [-] Wilton Forest, they had a glass of 54. [-] Baileys and watched 55. [-] ‘Dancing on Ice’ on 56. [-] ITV.