



NOUNS

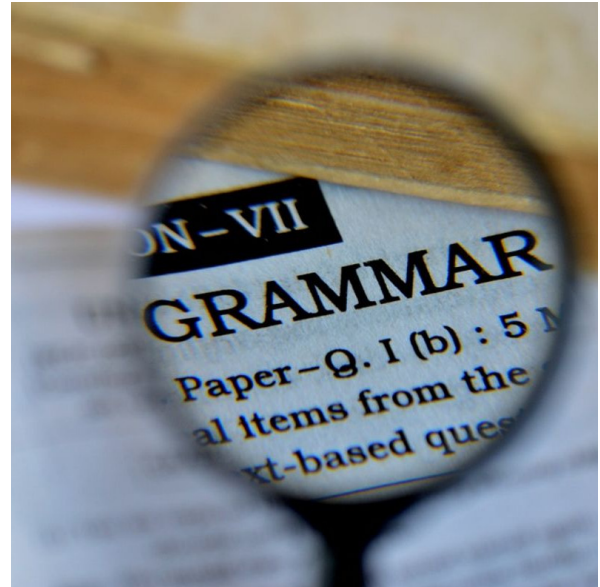
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Expemo code:

1CJ3-53PB-RFNS



1

Presentation

- When we are talking about things or people in general, we do not normally use **the** with uncountable and plural nouns:

THINGS OR PEOPLE IN GENERAL

Do you prefer **dogs** or **cats**?

I like **Italian food**, especially **pizza** and **pasta**.

I don't like **people** who shout. (people who shout in general)

Jack eats all the time. He really likes **food**.

Maria often listens to **music**.

When we are talking about particular things or people, we normally use **the**:

PARTICULAR THINGS OR PEOPLE

I don't like **the people** who live next door. (a particular group of people)

We went to that new restaurant last night. **The food** was excellent.

The music they played at the party wasn't very good.

- the + adjective**

We can use **the + adjective** to talk about a group of people in general, e.g. the old, the young, the rich, the poor, the disabled, the homeless, etc. The meaning is always plural:

The rich (= rich people) have more money than **the poor** (= poor people).

The government should do more to help **the homeless** and **the unemployed**.

We use **the** with some nationality adjectives to talk about people from a particular country:

The French are passionate about food.

America was discovered by **the Spanish** in 1492.

In general, we can use **the + adjective** for nationality adjectives ending in -sh, -ch, -ese or -ss:

the British

the Dutch

the Chinese

the Swiss



With other nationalities, we can only use the plural noun:
an Italian (singular noun) **(the) Italians** (plural noun)

a Scot - **(the) Scots**

an Iraqi - **(the) Iraqis**

a German - **(the) Germans**

3. **the + type of animal, machine, currency etc.**

The cheetah is the fastest land animal.

The euro is the currency used in the European Union.

Lee Ming plays **the guitar** very well.

In the above examples, we use **the + singular** countable noun to talk about a particular type of animal, currency and musical instrument in general. The meaning is not one particular thing.

The computer is a very useful machine. (a type of machine)

The computer that I ordered has arrived. (a particular computer)

Dialogue

- Do you like **travel**?
- Yes, I love it. Last month, I visited Spain. **The Spanish** are very friendly people.
- How did you get there?
- I went by train. **The train** is my favourite means of transport.

2

Practice 1

In each sentence below, choose the correct form, with or without 'the':

1. The computers/Computers are very important in our lives.
2. The milk/Milk you bought this morning wasn't very fresh.
3. John doesn't usually drink the coffee/coffee . He prefers the tea/tea
4. The vegetables/Vegetables are good for you.
5. I don't like the cold weather/cold weather . I always try to go somewhere hot on my holidays.
6. I enjoyed my visit to Russia, although I didn't like the cold weather/cold weather very much.
7. The advice/Advice you gave me was very useful.
8. John often spends his Saturday afternoons playing the football/football with his friends.
9. Jane travels a lot. She enjoys meeting the people/people and learning the languages/languages.
10. I never stay in the hotels/hotels that are very expensive.
11. We couldn't eat at that restaurant. All the tables/tables were booked.
12. A philosopher is somebody who studies or writes about the meaning of the life/life .
13. Hurry up if you want to do some shopping. The shops/Shops are going to close in half an hour.
14. Most of the people/Most people have access/the access to the Internet on a regular basis.
15. I prefer the children/children who are quiet and well-behaved.
16. Last weekend, we took the children/children to see their grandparents.

**3 Practice 2**

Complete the sentences below using 'the' + one of the following adjectives:

disabled

educated

homeless

hungry

injured

rich

unemployed

young

1. The government needs to do more to help _____ find jobs.
2. Most car parks have special parking spaces for _____ .
3. Timothy works for an organisation that provides food for _____ in Africa.
4. Do you think _____ are the future of this country?
5. Immediately after the accident, _____ were taken to hospital.
6. There is a huge gap between _____ and poor.
7. The dictator started to imprison _____ in order to strengthen his power over the people.
8. The local government decided to build special tents for _____ .

**4 Practice 3**

Answer the following questions with 'the' + nationality adjective or plural noun ending in -s. Use a dictionary if necessary.

Example: Who live in England, Scotland and Wales? *The British*

1. Who eat sushi as a national dish?
2. Who live in the Netherlands?
3. Who once had a large empire that included most of South America and parts of North America?
4. Who eat pizza and pasta as part of their national cuisine?
5. Who hosted the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing?
6. Which people have Warsaw as their capital city?
7. Who elected Vladimir Putin as their president in 2000 and 2004?
8. Which people live in the Republic of Ireland?
9. Who speak four official languages - German, French, Italian and Romansch?
10. Who built pyramids and developed the hieroglyphics writing system thousands of years ago?

**5 Practice 4**

Complete the sentences below with 'the' + one of the following nouns:

aeroplane dollar giraffe mobile phone pineapple
potato rifle saxophone whale wheel

- _____ is the currency of the United States.
- _____ is the tallest animal in the world.
- _____ is one of the largest tropical fruits.
- _____ is a popular instrument with jazz musicians.
- _____ is the fastest vehicle for travelling long distances.
- _____ is the largest sea animal in the world.
- _____ is the fastest and most popular way that people communicate.
- _____ is a type of gun designed to be accurate at long distances.
- _____ is one of the oldest inventions in the world.
- _____ is a round vegetable which grows underground.

Now answer the following questions using 'the' + a suitable noun:

1. What is the currency of your country?
2. Which musical instrument(s) can you play?
3. Which means of transport do you use?
4. What is your favourite animal?
5. Which technological inventions do you use everyday?

6 Practice 5

Complete the sentences below with 'the' or '-' if no word is required.

1. I don't like _____ people who complain all the time.
2. _____ crocodile is one of the most dangerous animals in Africa.
3. The city is building new housing for _____ elderly.
4. _____ French are known for their love of good food.
5. Do you think that _____ French is a difficult language to learn?
6. Sandra loves _____ shoes. She buys a new pair almost every week!
7. _____ shoes I bought yesterday don't fit me. I'll have to return them.



8. _____ time flies when you're having fun.
9. Anna is a nurse. She looks after _____ sick.
10. I like _____ classical music. _____ piano is my favourite instrument.
11. _____ Paper was invented by _____ Chinese.
12. In London, _____ underground is the cheapest and most efficient form of transport for _____ tourists.