

B1 ENGLISH

CHAPTER 4 Lesson 1

Grammar

In this lesson you will learn

<i>Grammar: Articles and nouns Part 1 (Unit 69-75)</i>	<i>Completed</i>		<i>Your Score</i>
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	
❖ Unit 69: Countable and uncountable 1	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 70: Countable and uncountable 2	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 71: Countable nouns with <i>a/an</i> and <i>some</i>	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 72: <i>a/an</i> and <i>the</i>	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 73: <i>the</i> 1	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 74: <i>the</i> 2 (<i>school / the school</i> etc.)	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 75: <i>the</i> 3 (<i>children / the children</i>)	☐	☐	/

Countable and uncountable 1

A A noun can be *countable* or *uncountable*:

Countable

- ☐ I eat **a banana** every day.
- ☐ I like **bananas**.



Banana is a *countable* noun.

A countable noun can be singular (**banana**) or plural (**bananas**).

We can use numbers with countable nouns. So we can say **one banana, two bananas** etc.

Examples of nouns usually countable:

- ☐ Kate was singing **a song**.
- ☐ There's **a nice beach** near here.
- ☐ Do you have **a ten-pound note**?
- ☐ It wasn't your fault. It was **an accident**.
- ☐ There are no **batteries** in the radio.
- ☐ We don't have enough **cups**.

Uncountable

- ☐ I eat **rice** every day.
- ☐ I like **rice**.



Rice is an *uncountable* noun.

An uncountable noun has only one form (**rice**). There is no plural.

We cannot use numbers with uncountable nouns. We cannot say 'one rice', 'two rices' etc.

Examples of nouns usually uncountable:

- ☐ Kate was listening to **music**.
- ☐ There's **sand** in my shoes.
- ☐ Do you have any **money**?
- ☐ It wasn't your fault. It was bad **luck**.
- ☐ There is no **electricity** in this house.
- ☐ We don't have enough **water**.

B

You can use **a/an** with singular countable nouns:

a beach a student an umbrella

You cannot use singular countable nouns alone (without **a/the/my** etc.):

- ☐ Do you want **a banana**?
(*not want banana*)
- ☐ There's been **an accident**.
(*not There's been accident*)

You can use *plural* countable nouns alone:

- ☐ I like **bananas**. (= bananas in general)
- ☐ **Accidents** can be prevented.

We do not use **a/an** with uncountable nouns. We do not say 'a sand', 'a music', 'a rice'.

But you can often use **a ... of**. For example:
a bowl / a packet / a grain of rice

You can use uncountable nouns alone (without **the/my/some** etc.):

- ☐ I eat **rice** every day.
- ☐ There's **blood** on your shirt.
- ☐ Can you hear **music**?

C

You can use **some** and **any** with plural countable nouns:

- ☐ We sang **some songs**.
- ☐ Did you buy **any apples**?

We use **many** and **few** with plural countable nouns:

- ☐ We didn't take **many pictures**.
- ☐ I have a **few things** to do.

You can use **some** and **any** with uncountable nouns:

- ☐ We listened to **some music**.
- ☐ Did you buy **any apple juice**?

We use **much** and **little** with uncountable nouns:

- ☐ We didn't do **much shopping**.
- ☐ I have a **little work** to do.

Exercises

69.1 Some of these sentences need **a/an**. Correct the sentences where necessary.

- 1 Joe goes everywhere by bike. He doesn't have a car.
- 2 Helen was listening to music when I arrived. OK
- 3 We went to very nice restaurant last weekend.
- 4 I brush my teeth with toothpaste.
- 5 I use toothbrush to brush my teeth.
- 6 Can you tell me if there's bank near here?
- 7 My brother works for insurance company.
- 8 I don't like violence.
- 9 When we were in Rome, we stayed in big hotel.
- 10 If you have problem, I'll try and help you.
- 11 I like your suggestion. It's interesting idea.
- 12 Can you smell paint?
- 13 I like volleyball. It's good game.
- 14 Lisa doesn't usually wear jewellery.
- 15 Jane was wearing beautiful necklace.
- 16 Does this city have airport?

69.2 Complete the sentences using the following words. Use **a/an** where necessary.

accident ice	biscuit interview	blood key	coat moment	decision music	electricity question
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- 1 The road is closed. There's been an accident
- 2 Listen! Can you hear music ?
- 3 I couldn't get into the house. I didn't have
- 4 It's very warm today. Why are you wearing
- 5 Would you like in your drink?
- 6 Are you hungry? Have !
- 7 Our lives would be very difficult without
- 8 Excuse me, can I ask you ?
- 9 I'm not ready yet. Can you wait, please?
- 10 The heart pumps through the body.
- 11 We can't delay much longer. We have to make soon.
- 12 I had for a job yesterday. It went quite well.

69.3 Complete the sentences using the following words:

air patience	day people	friend picture	joke queue	language space	meat umbrella
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Sometimes the word needs to be plural (**-s**), and sometimes you need to use **a/an**.

- 1 I had a camera with me, but I didn't take any pictures
- 2 There are seven in a week.
- 3 A vegetarian is a person who doesn't eat
- 4 Outside the cinema there was of people waiting to see the film.
- 5 I'm not good at telling
- 6 Last night I went out with some of mine.
- 7 There were very few in town today. The streets were almost empty.
- 8 I'm going out for a walk. I need some fresh
- 9 Paul always wants things quickly. He doesn't have much
- 10 I think it's going to rain. Do you have I could borrow?
- 11 How many can you speak?
- 12 Our flat is very small. We don't have much

Countable and uncountable 2

A

Many nouns are sometimes countable, and sometimes uncountable. Usually there is a difference in meaning. Compare:

Countable

- ☐ Did you hear **a noise** just now?
(= a specific noise)
- ☐ I bought **a paper** to read.
(= a newspaper)
- ☐ There's **a hair** in my soup!
(= one single hair)
- ☐ This is **a nice room**.
(= a room in a house)
- ☐ I had some interesting **experiences**
while I was travelling.
(= things that happened to me)
- ☐ Enjoy your trip. Have **a great time**!

Uncountable

- ☐ I can't work here. There's too much **noise**. (= noise in general)
- ☐ I need **some paper** to write on.
(= material for writing on)
- ☐ You've got very long **hair**. (*not* hairs)
(= all the hair on your head)
- ☐ You can't sit here. There isn't **room**.
(= space)
- ☐ I was offered the job because I had a lot of **experience**. (*not* experiences)
(= experience of that type of job)
- ☐ I can't wait. I don't have **time**.

Coffee/tea/juice/beer etc. (drinks) are normally uncountable:

- ☐ I don't like **coffee** very much.

But you can say **a coffee** (= a cup of coffee), **two coffees** (= two cups) etc. :

- ☐ **Two coffees** and **an orange juice**, please.

B

These nouns are usually uncountable:

accommodation	behaviour	damage	luck	permission	traffic
advice	bread	furniture	luggage	progress	weather
baggage	chaos	information	news	scenery	work

We do not normally use **a/an** with these nouns:

- ☐ I'm going to buy **some bread**. *or ... a loaf of bread.* (*not* a bread)
- ☐ Enjoy your holiday! I hope you have good **weather**. (*not* a good weather)

These nouns are not usually plural (so we do not say 'breads', 'furnitures' etc.):

- ☐ Where are you going to put all your **furniture**? (*not* furnitures)
- ☐ Let me know if you need more **information**. (*not* informations)

News is uncountable, not plural:

- ☐ The **news was** unexpected. (*not* The news were)

Travel (*noun*) means 'travelling in general' (uncountable). We do not say 'a travel' to mean **a trip** or **a journey**:

- ☐ They spend a lot of money on **travel**.
- ☐ We had a very good **trip/journey**. (*not* a good travel)

Compare these countable and uncountable nouns:

Countable

- ☐ I'm looking for **a job**.
- ☐ What **a beautiful view**!
- ☐ It's **a nice day** today.
- ☐ We had a lot of **bags**.
- ☐ **These chairs** are mine.
- ☐ That's **a good suggestion**.
- ☐ There were a lot of **cars**.

Uncountable

- ☐ I'm looking for **work**. (*not* a work)
- ☐ What beautiful **scenery**!
- ☐ It's nice **weather** today.
- ☐ We had a lot of **baggage/luggage**.
- ☐ **This furniture** is mine.
- ☐ That's good **advice**.
- ☐ There **was** a lot of **traffic**.

Exercises

70.1 Which is correct?

- 1 a The engine is making strange noise / a strange noise. What is it? (a strange noise is correct)
- b We live near a busy road so there's a lot of noise / there are a lot of noises.
- 2 a Light / A light comes from the sun.
- b I thought there was somebody in the house because there was light / a light on inside.
- 3 a I was in a hurry this morning. I didn't have time / a time for breakfast.
- b We really enjoyed our holiday. We had great time / a great time.
- 4 a Can I have glass of water / a glass of water, please?
- b Be careful. The window has been broken and there's broken glass / a broken glass on the floor.
- 5 a We stayed at a hotel. We had very nice room / a very nice room.
- b We have a big garage. There's room / a room for two cars.

70.2 Which is correct?

- 1 Did you have nice weather / a nice weather when you were away? (nice weather is correct)
- 2 We were very unfortunate. We had bad luck / a bad luck.
- 3 Our travel / journey from Paris to Moscow by train was very tiring.
- 4 When the fire alarm rang, there was complete chaos / a complete chaos.
- 5 Bad news don't / doesn't make people happy.
- 6 There's some lovely scenery / a lovely scenery in this part of the country.
- 7 I like my job, but it's very hard work / a very hard work.
- 8 I want to print some documents, but the printer is out of paper / papers.
- 9 The trip took a long time. There was heavy traffic / a heavy traffic.
- 10 Your hair is / Your hairs are too long. You should have it / them cut.

70.3 Complete the sentences using the following words. Use the plural (-s) where necessary.

advice	chair	damage	experience	experience
furniture	hair	luggage	permission	progress

- 1 We didn't have much luggage – just two small bags.
- 2 We have no _____, not even a bed or a table.
- 3 There is room for everybody to sit down. There are plenty of _____.
- 4 Who is that woman with short _____? Do you know her?
- 5 Carla's English is better than it was. She's made good _____.
- 6 If you want to take pictures here, you need to ask for _____.
- 7 I didn't know what I should do, so I asked Chris for _____.
- 8 I don't think Dan should get the job. He doesn't have enough _____.
- 9 Kate has done many interesting things. She could write a book about her _____.
- 10 The _____ caused by the storm will cost a lot to repair.

70.4 What do you say in these situations? Use the word in brackets in your sentence.

- 1 Your friends have just arrived at the station. You can't see any cases or bags. You ask:
(luggage) Do you have any luggage _____?
- 2 You go to a tourist office. You want to know about places to visit in the town.
(information) I'd like _____.
- 3 You are a student. You want your teacher to advise you about which courses to do. You say:
(advice) Can you give _____?
- 4 You applied for a job and you've just heard that you were successful. You call Tom and say:
(good news) Hi, Tom. I _____ I got the job!
- 5 You are at the top of a mountain. You can see a very long way. It's beautiful. You say:
(view) It _____, isn't it?
- 6 You look out of the window. The weather is horrible: cold, wet and windy. You say:
(weather) What _____!

Countable nouns with **a/an** and **some**

A

Countable nouns can be *singular* or *plural*:

a dog	a child	the evening	this party	an umbrella
dogs	some children	the evenings	these parties	two umbrellas

Before singular countable nouns you can use **a/an**:

- ☐ Bye! Have **a** nice **evening**.
- ☐ Do you need **an** **umbrella**?

You cannot use singular countable nouns alone (without **a/the/my** etc.):

- ☐ She never wears **a** **hat**. (*not* wears hat)
- ☐ Be careful of **the** **dog**.
- ☐ What **a** beautiful **day**!
- ☐ Did you hurt **your** **leg**?

B

We use **a/an** ... to say what kind of thing something is, or what kind of person somebody is:

- ☐ That's a **nice** **table**.

In the plural we use the noun alone (*not* some ...):

- ☐ Those are **nice** **chairs**. (*not* some nice chairs)

Compare singular and plural:

- ☐ A dog is **a** **dog**.
- ☐ I'm **a** **dog**.
- ☐ My father is **a** **doctor**.
- ☐ Jane is **a** **really nice person**.
- ☐ What **a** **lovely dress**!

- ☐ Dogs are **dogs**.
- ☐ We're **dogs**.
- ☐ My parents are both **doctors**.
- ☐ Jane and Ben are **really nice people**.
- ☐ What **awful shoes**!

We say that somebody has **a long nose** / **a nice face** / **blue eyes** / **long fingers** etc. :

- ☐ Jack has a **long nose**.
(*not* the long nose)

- ☐ Jack has **blue eyes**.
(*not* the blue eyes)

We use **a/an** when we say what somebody's job is:

- ☐ Sandra is **a** **nurse**. (*not* Sandra is nurse)
- ☐ Would you like to be **a** **English teacher**?

C

You can use **some** with plural countable nouns. We use **some** in two ways.

(1) **some** = a number (of) / a few (of) / a pair (of):

- ☐ I've seen **some** good **movies** recently. (*not* I've seen good movies)
- ☐ **Some** **friends** of mine are coming to stay at the weekend.
- ☐ I need **some** new **sunglasses**. (= a new pair of sunglasses)

Often you can say the same thing with or without **some**. For example:

- ☐ I need **(some)** new **clothes**.
- ☐ The room was empty apart from a table and **(some)** **chairs**.

Do not use **some** when you are talking about things in general (see Unit 75):

- ☐ I love **bananas**. (*not* some bananas)
- ☐ My aunt is a writer. She writes **books**. (*not* some books)

(2) **some** = some but not all:

- ☐ **Some** **children** learn very quickly. (but not all children)
- ☐ Tomorrow there will be rain in **some** **places**, but most of the country will be dry.

Exercises

71.1 What are these things? Choose from the box and write a sentence.

- 1 an eagle *It's a bird.*
- 2 a pigeon, a duck and a penguin *They're birds.*
- 3 carrots and onions
- 4 a tulip
- 5 Earth, Mars and Jupiter
- 6 chess
- 7 a hammer, a saw and a screwdriver
- 8 the Nile, the Rhine and the Mekong
- 9 a mosquito
- 10 Hindi, Arabic and Swahili

bird(s)
flower(s)
game(s)
insect(s)
language(s)
planet(s)
river(s)
tool(s)
vegetable(s)

71.2 Read about what these people do. What are their jobs? Choose from:

chef interpreter journalist ~~nurse~~ plumber surgeon tour guide waiter

- 1 Sarah looks after patients in hospital. *She's a nurse.*
- 2 Gary works in a restaurant. He brings the food to the tables. He
- 3 Jane writes articles for a newspaper.
- 4 Kevin works in a hospital. He operates on people.
- 5 Jonathan cooks in a restaurant.
- 6 Dave installs and repairs water pipes.
- 7 Anna shows visitors round her city and tells them about it.
- 8 Lisa translates what people are saying from one language into another, so that they can understand each other.

71.3 Which is right?

- 1 Most of my friends are students / ~~some students~~. (students is correct)
- 2 Are you careful driver / a careful driver?
- 3 I went to the library and borrowed books / some books.
- 4 Mark works in a bookshop. He sells books / some books.
- 5 I've been walking for hours. I've got sore feet / some sore feet.
- 6 I don't feel very well. I've got sore throat / a sore throat.
- 7 What lovely present / a lovely present! Thank you very much.
- 8 I met students / some students in a cafe yesterday. They were from China.
- 9 It might rain. Don't go out without umbrella / without an umbrella.
- 10 People / Some people learn languages more easily than others.

71.4 Put in a/an or some where necessary. If no word is necessary, leave the space empty.

- 1 I've seen some good movies recently.
- 2 Are you feeling all right? Do you have a headache?
- 3 I know lots of people. Most of them are students.
- 4 When I was child, I used to be very shy.
- 5 birds, for example the penguin, cannot fly.
- 6 Would you like to be actor?
- 7 Questions, questions, questions! You're always asking questions!
- 8 I didn't expect to see you. What surprise!
- 9 Do you like staying in hotels?
- 10 Tomorrow is a holiday. shops will be open, but most of them will be closed.
- 11 Those are nice shoes. Where did you get them?
- 12 You need visa to visit countries, but not all of them.
- 13 Kate is teacher. Her parents were teachers too.
- 14 I don't believe him. He's liar. He's always telling lies.

A

Study this example:

I had **a sandwich** and **an apple** for lunch.

The sandwich wasn't very good, but **the apple** was nice.



JOE

Joe says '**a** sandwich', '**an** apple' because this is the first time he talks about them.

Joe now says '**the** sandwich', '**the** apple' because we know which sandwich and which apple he means – **the** sandwich and **the** apple he had for lunch.

Compare **a** and **the** in these examples:

- ☐ **A man** and **a woman** were sitting opposite me. **The man** was American, but I think **the woman** was British.
- ☐ When we were on holiday, we stayed at **a hotel**. Sometimes we ate at **the hotel** and sometimes we went to **a restaurant**.

B

We use **the** when we are thinking of a specific thing. Compare **a/an** and **the**:

- ☐ Tim sat down on **a chair**. (maybe one of many chairs in the room)
Tim sat down on **the chair nearest the door**. (a specific chair)
- ☐ Do you have **a car**? (not a specific car)
I cleaned **the car** yesterday. (= my car)

We use **a/an** when we say what kind of thing or person we mean. Compare:

- ☐ We stayed at **a very cheap hotel**. (a type of hotel)
The hotel where we stayed was very cheap. (a specific hotel)

C

We use **the** when it is clear which thing or person we mean. For example, in a room we talk about **the light / the floor / the ceiling / the door / the carpet** etc. :

- ☐ Can you turn off **the light**, please? (= the light in this room)
- ☐ I took a taxi to **the station**. (= the station in that town)
- ☐ (*in a shop*) I'd like to speak to **the manager**, please. (= the manager of this shop)

We also say '(go to) **the bank / the post office**':

- ☐ I have to go to **the bank** and then I'm going to **the post office**.
(The speaker is usually thinking of a specific bank or post office.)

and '(go to) **the doctor / the dentist**':

- ☐ Clare isn't well. She's gone to **the doctor**.
- ☐ I don't like going to **the dentist**.

Compare **the** and **a**:

- ☐ I have to go to **the bank** today.
Is there **a bank** near here?
- ☐ I don't like going to **the dentist**.
My sister is **a dentist**.

D

We say 'once **a week** / three times **a day** / £1.50 **a kilo**' etc. :

- ☐ I go to the cinema about once **a month**.
- ☐ 'How much are those potatoes?' '£1.50 **a kilo**.'
- ☐ Helen works eight hours **a day**, six days **a week**.

Exercises

72.1 Put in a/an or the.

- 1 This morning I bought a book and magazine. book is in my bag, but I can't remember where I put magazine.
- 2 I saw accident this morning. car crashed into tree. driver of car wasn't hurt, but car was badly damaged.
- 3 There are two cars parked outside: blue one and grey one. blue one belongs to my neighbours. I don't know who owner of grey one is.
- 4 My friends live in old house in small village. There is beautiful garden behind house. I would like to have garden like that.

72.2 Put in a/an or the.

- 1 a This house is very nice. Does it have garden?
b It's a beautiful day. Let's sit in garden.
c I like living in this house, but it's a shame that garden is so small.
- 2 a Can you recommend good restaurant?
b We had dinner in very nice restaurant.
c We had dinner in best restaurant in town.
- 3 a What's name of that man we met yesterday?
b We stayed at a very nice hotel – I can't remember name now.
c My neighbour has French name, but in fact she's English, not French.
- 4 a Did Paula get job she applied for?
b It's not easy to get job at the moment.
c Do you enjoy your work? Is it interesting job?
- 5 a 'Are you going away next week?' 'No, week after next.'
b I'm going away for week in September.
c Gary has a part-time job. He works three mornings week.

72.3 Put in a/an or the where necessary.

- 1 Would you like apple?
- 2 How often do you go to dentist?
- 3 Can you close door, please?
- 4 I have problem. I need your help.
- 5 How far is it from here to station?
- 6 I'm going to post office. I won't be long.
- 7 Paul plays tennis. He's very good player.
- 8 There isn't airport near where I live.
- 9 Nearest airport is 70 miles away.
- 10 There were no chairs, so we sat on floor.
- 11 Have you finished with book I lent you?
- 12 Chris has just got job in bank in Zurich.
- 13 We live in small apartment in city centre.
- 14 There's shop at end of street I live in.

Would you like an apple?

72.4 Answer these questions. Where possible, use once a week / three times a day etc.

- 1 How often do you go to the cinema? Three or four times a year.
- 2 How often do you go to the dentist?
- 3 How often do you go away on holiday?
- 4 How long do you usually sleep?
- 5 How often do you go out in the evening?
- 6 How many hours of TV do you watch (on average)?
- 7 What's the usual speed limit in towns in your country?

A

We use **the** when there is only one of something:

- ☐ Have you ever crossed **the equator**?
(there is only one equator)
- ☐ Our apartment is on **the tenth floor**.
- ☐ Buenos Aires is **the capital of Argentina**.
- ☐ I'm going away at **the end of this month**.

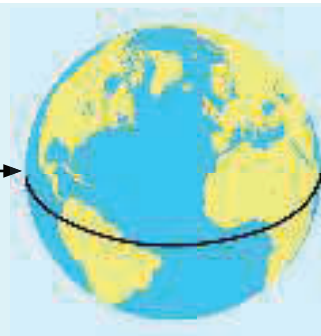
We use **the** + *superlative* (**best**, **oldest** etc.):

- ☐ What's **the longest river in Europe**?

Compare **the** and **a/an** (see also Units 71–72):

- ☐ **The sun** is **a star**. (= one of many stars)
- ☐ **The hotel** where we stayed was **a very old hotel**.
- ☐ We live in **an apartment** on **the tenth floor**.
- ☐ What's **the best way** to learn **a language**?

THE EQUATOR



B

We say '**the same**':

- ☐ Your sweater is **the same** colour as mine. (*not* is same colour)
- ☐ 'Are these keys **the same**?' 'No, they're different.'

C

We say: **the world** **the universe** **the sun** **the moon** **the earth**
the sky **the sea** **the ground** **the country** (= not a town)

- ☐ I love to look at the stars in **the sky**. (*not* in sky)
- ☐ Do you live in a town or in **the country**?
- ☐ **The earth** goes round **the sun**, and **the moon** goes round **the earth**.

We also use **Earth** (without **the**) when we think of it as a planet in space (like **Mars**, **Jupiter** etc.).

- ☐ Which is the planet nearest **Earth**?

We say **space** (without **the**) when we mean 'space in the universe'. Compare:

- ☐ There are millions of stars **in space**. (*not* in the space)
- ☐ I tried to park my car, but **the space** was too small.

D

We say:

(go to) **the cinema**, **the theatre**

- ☐ I go to **the cinema** a lot, but I haven't been to **the theatre** for ages.

TV / television (without **the**), but **the radio**

- ☐ I watch **TV** a lot, but I don't listen to **the radio** much.

but Can you turn off **the television**, please? (**the** television = the TV set)

the internet

- ☐ **The internet** has changed the way we live.

E

We usually say **breakfast/lunch/dinner** (without **the**):

- ☐ What did you have for **breakfast**?
- ☐ We had **lunch** in a very nice restaurant.

But we say '**a big** lunch', '**a wonderful** dinner', '**an early** breakfast' etc.

- ☐ We had **a very nice lunch**. (*not* We had very nice lunch)

F

We say: **size 43**, **platform 5** etc. (without **the**)

- ☐ Our train leaves from **platform 5**. (*not* the platform 5)
- ☐ Do you have these shoes in **size 43**? (*not* the size 43)

In the same way, we say: **room 126**, **page 29**, **vitamin A**, **section B** etc.

Exercises

73.1 Put in *the* or *a* where necessary. If no word is necessary, leave the space empty.

- 1 A: Our apartment is on the tenth floor.
B: Is it? I hope there's lift.
- 2 A: Did you have nice holiday?
B: Yes, it was best holiday I've ever had.
- 3 A: Where's nearest shop?
B: There's one at end of this street.
- 4 A: It's lovely day, isn't it?
B: Yes, there isn't cloud in sky.
- 5 A: We spent all our money because we stayed at most expensive hotel in town.
B: Why didn't you stay at cheaper hotel?
- 6 A: Would you like to travel in space?
B: Yes, I'd love to go to moon.
- 7 A: What did you think of movie last night?
B: It was OK, but I thought ending was a bit strange.
- 8 A: What's Jupiter? Is it star?
B: No, it's planet. It's largest planet in solar system.

73.2 Which is right? (For *the*, see also Unit 72.)

- 1 I haven't been to cinema / the cinema for ages. (*the cinema is correct*)
- 2 Sarah spends most of her free time watching TV / the TV.
- 3 Do you ever listen to radio / the radio?
- 4 Television / The television was on, but nobody was watching it.
- 5 Have you had dinner / the dinner yet?
- 6 It's confusing when two people have same name / the same name.
- 7 What do you want for breakfast / for the breakfast?
- 8 Fruit is an important source of vitamin C / the vitamin C.
- 9 This computer is not connected to internet / the internet.
- 10 I lay down on ground / the ground and looked up at sky / the sky.
- 11 Next train / The next train to London leaves from platform 3 / the platform 3.

73.3 Put in *the* or *a* where necessary. (For *a* and *the* see also Units 71–72.)

- 1 Sun is star. The sun is a star.
- 2 I'm fed up with doing same thing every day.
- 3 Room 25 is on second floor.
- 4 It was very hot day. It was hottest day of year.
- 5 We had lunch in nice restaurant by sea.
- 6 What's on at cinema this week?
- 7 I had big breakfast this morning.
- 8 You'll find information you need at top of page 15.

73.4 Complete the sentences. Choose from the box and use *the* where necessary.

breakfast cinema gate Gate 24 ~~lunch~~ question question 3 sea

- 1 I'm hungry. It's time for lunch.
- 2 There was no wind, so was very calm.
- 3 Most of the questions in the test were OK, but I couldn't answer
- 4 'I'm going to tonight.' 'Are you? What are you going to see?'
- 5 I'm sorry, but could you repeat, please?
- 6 I didn't have this morning because I was in a hurry.
- 7 (*airport announcement*) Flight AB123 to Rome is now boarding at
- 8 I forgot to shut Can you shut it for me?

the 2 (school / the school etc.)

A Compare **school** and **the school**:

Ellie is ten years old. Every day she goes **to school**. She's **at school** now. **School** starts at 9 and finishes at 3.

We say a child goes **to school** or is **at school** (as a student). We are not thinking of a specific school. We are thinking of **school** as a *general* idea – children learning in a classroom.



Today Ellie's mother wants to speak to her daughter's teacher. So she has gone to **the school** to see her. She's at **the school** now.

Ellie's mother is not a student. She is not 'at school', she doesn't 'go to school'. If she wants to see Ellie's teacher, she goes to **the school** (= Ellie's school, a specific building).

B We use **prison** (or **jail**), **hospital**, **university**, **college** and **church** in a similar way. We do not use **the** when we are thinking of the general idea of these places and what they are used for. Compare:

- ☐ When I leave school, I plan to go **to university** / go **to college**. (as a student)
- ☐ Joe had an accident last week. He was taken **to hospital**. He's still **in hospital** now. (as a patient)
- ☐ Ken's brother is **in prison** for robbery. (He is a prisoner. We are not thinking of a specific prison.)
- ☐ Sarah's father goes **to church** every Sunday. (for a religious service)

- ☐ I went to **the university** to meet Professor Thomas. (as a visitor, not as a student)
- ☐ Jane has gone to **the hospital** to visit Joe. She's at **the hospital** now. (as a visitor, not as a patient)
- ☐ Ken went to **the prison** to visit his brother. (He went as a visitor, not as a prisoner.)
- ☐ Some workmen went to **the church** to repair the roof. (a specific building)

With most other places, you need **the**. For example, **the station**, **the cinema** (see Units 72C and 73D).

C We say **go to bed** / **be in bed** etc. (*not* the bed):

- ☐ I'm going **to bed** now. Goodnight.
- ☐ Do you ever have breakfast **in bed**?

but

- ☐ I sat down on **the bed**. (a specific piece of furniture)

go to work / **be at work** / **start work** / **finish work** etc. (*not* the work):

- ☐ Chris didn't go to **work** yesterday.
- ☐ What time do you usually finish **work**?

go home / **come home** / **arrive home** / **get home** / **be (at) home** / do something **at home** etc. :

- ☐ It's late. Let's **go home**.
- ☐ I don't go out to work. I work **at home**.

Exercises

74.1 Complete the sentences with **school** or **the school**.

- Why aren't your children at school today? Are they ill?
- When he was younger, Ben hated, but he enjoys it now.
- There were some parents waiting outside to meet their children.
- What time does start in the morning?
- How do your children get to and from? Do you take them?
- What was the name of you attended?
- What does Emily want to do when she leaves?
- My children walk to isn't very far.

74.2 Which is right?

- Where is university / the university? Is it near here? (the university is correct)
 - Neil left school and got a job. He didn't want to go to university / the university.
 - In your country, what proportion of the population study at university / the university?
 - This is a small town, but university / the university is the biggest in the country.
- My brother has always been healthy. He's never been in hospital / the hospital.
 - When my friend was ill, I went to hospital / the hospital to see her.
 - When I was visiting my friend, I met Lisa, who is a nurse at hospital / the hospital.
 - I saw an accident. A woman was injured and was taken to hospital / the hospital.
- Why is she in prison / the prison? What crime did she commit?
 - There was a fire at prison / the prison. Firefighters were called to put it out.
 - Do you think too many people are sent to prison / the prison?
- John's mother is a regular churchgoer. She goes to church / the church every Sunday.
 - John himself doesn't go to church / the church.
 - The village is very nice. You should visit church / the church. It's interesting.

74.3 Complete the sentences. Choose from the box.

- How did you get home after the party?
- How do you usually go in the morning? By bus?
- Sam likes to go to early and get up early.
- I don't have my phone. I left it
- 'Have you seen my keys?' 'Yes, they're on
- Shall we meet tomorrow evening?
- I like to read before going to sleep.
- It was a long tiring journey. We arrived very late.
- Tom usually finishes at five o'clock.
- It's nice to travel around, but there's no place

bed
the bed
in bed
~~home~~
home
at home
like home
work
to work
after work

74.4 Complete the sentences. Choose **at/in/to** + **hospital, school** etc.

bed home **hospital** hospital prison school university work

- Kate's mother has to have an operation. She'll be in hospital for a few days.
- In your country, from what age do children have to go?
- Mark didn't go out last night. He stayed
- There is a lot of traffic in the morning when people are going
- When Sophie leaves school, she wants to study psychology
- Ben never gets up before 9 o'clock. It's 8.30 now, so he is still
- The accident wasn't serious. Nobody had to go
- If people commit crimes, they may end up

the 3 (children / the children)

A

When we are talking about things or people in general, we do *not* use **the**:

- ☐ I'm afraid of **dogs**. (*not* the dogs)
(**dogs** = dogs in general, not a specific group of dogs)
- ☐ **Doctors** are usually paid more than **teachers**.
- ☐ Do you know anybody who collects **stamps**?
- ☐ **Life** has changed a lot in the last thirty years.
- ☐ Do you like **classical music** / **Chinese food** / **fast cars**?
- ☐ My favourite sport is **football/skiing/athletics**.
- ☐ My favourite subject at school was **history/physics/English**.



We say '**most** people / **most** shops / **most** big cities' etc. (*not* the most ...):

- ☐ **Most shops** accept credit cards. (*not* The most shops)

B

We use **the** when we mean specific things or people.

Compare:

*In general (without **the**)*

- ☐ **Children** learn from playing.
(= children in general)
- ☐ I couldn't live without **music**.
- ☐ All **cars** have wheels.
- ☐ **Sugar** isn't very good for you.
- ☐ **English people** drink a lot of tea.
(= English people in general)

*Specific people or things (with **the**)*

- ☐ We took **the children** to the zoo.
(= a specific group, perhaps the speaker's children)
- ☐ The film wasn't very good, but I liked **the music**. (= the music in the film)
- ☐ All **the cars in this car park** belong to people who work here.
- ☐ Can you pass **the sugar**, please?
(= the sugar on the table)
- ☐ **The English people I know** drink a lot of tea. (= only the English people I know, not English people in general)

C

The difference between 'something in general' and 'something specific' is not always very clear.

Compare:

*In general (without **the**)*

- ☐ I like working with **people**.
(= people in general)
- ☐ I like working with **people who say what they think**.
(not all people, but 'people who say what they think' is still a general idea)
- ☐ Do you like **coffee**?
(= coffee in general)
- ☐ Do you like **strong black coffee**?
(not all coffee, but 'strong black coffee' is still a general idea)

*Specific people or things (with **the**)*

- ☐ I like **the people I work with**.
(= a specific group of people)
- ☐ **The coffee we had after dinner** wasn't very good. (= specific coffee)

Exercises

75.1 Choose four of these things and write what you think about them:

bananas boxing cats crowds fast food horror movies
~~hot weather~~ maths opera snow supermarkets zoos

Use: I like ... / I don't like ... I think ... is/are ... I don't mind ...
 I love ... / I hate ... I'm (not) interested in ...

- 1 I don't like hot weather very much.
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

75.2 Which is right?

- 1 a Apples / ~~The apples~~ are good for you. (Apples is correct)
 b Look at apples / the apples on that tree. They're very big.
- 2 a Who are people / the people in this picture?
 b It annoys me when people / the people throw rubbish on the ground.
- 3 a My memory isn't good. I'm not good at remembering names / the names.
 b What were names / the names of those people we met last night?
- 4 a First World War / The First World War began in 1914 and ended in 1918.
 b A pacifist is somebody who is against war / the war.
- 5 a He's lazy. He doesn't like hard work / the hard work.
 b Did you finish work / the work you were doing yesterday?

75.3 Complete the sentences using the following. Use **the** where necessary.

~~(the) basketball~~ (the) grass (the) patience (the) people
 (the) questions (the) meat ~~(the) information~~ (the) hotels
 (the) biology (the) water (the) spiders (the) lies

- 1 My favourite sport is basketball.
- 2 The information we were given wasn't correct.
- 3 Some people are afraid of
- 4 A vegetarian is somebody who doesn't eat
- 5 The test wasn't hard. I answered without difficulty.
- 6 Do you know who live in the flat next to yours?
- 7 is the study of plants and animals.
- 8 It's better to tell the truth. Telling often causes problems.
- 9 We couldn't find anywhere to stay in the town. were all full.
- 10 Don't swim in this pool. doesn't look very clean.
- 11 Don't sit on It's wet after the rain.
- 12 You need to teach young children.

75.4 Which is right?

- 1 Steve is very good at telling stories / the stories.
- 2 I can't sing this song. I don't know words / the words.
- 3 Don't stay in that hotel. It's noisy and rooms / the rooms are very small.
- 4 I don't have a car, so I use public transport / the public transport most of the time.
- 5 All books / All the books on the top shelf belong to me.
- 6 Life / The life is strange sometimes. Some very strange things happen.
- 7 We enjoyed our holiday. Weather / The weather was good.
- 8 Everybody needs water / the water to live.
- 9 I don't like films / the films with unhappy endings.