

The 1

A

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

- What is **the** longest river in **the** world? (there is only one longest river)
- The** earth goes round **the** sun and **the** moon goes round **the** earth.
- Have you ever crossed **the** equator?
- I'm going away at **the** end of this month.

Don't forget **the**:

- Paris is **the** capital of France. (*not* Paris is capital of ...)

But we use **a/an** to say what kind of thing something is (see Unit 71B). Compare **the** and **a**:

- The** sun is **a** star. (= one of many stars)
- The** hotel we stayed at was **a** very nice hotel.

B

We say: **the** sky, **the** sea, **the** ground, **the** country, **the** environment.

- We looked up at all the stars in **the** sky. (*not* in sky)
- Would you like to live in **the** country? (= not in a town)
- We must do more to protect **the** environment. (= the natural world around us)

But 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.

C

We use **the** before **same** (the same):

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

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.

When we say **the** cinema / **the** theatre, we do not necessarily mean a specific cinema or theatre.

We usually say **the** radio, but **television** (without **the**). Compare:

- I listen to **the** radio a lot. *but* I watch **television** a lot.
- We heard the news on **the** radio. *but* We watched the news on **television**.

The television = the television set:

- Can you turn off **the** television, please?

E

Breakfast **lunch** **dinner**

We do *not* normally use **the** with the names of meals (**breakfast**, **lunch** etc.):

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

But we use **a** if there is an adjective before **breakfast**, **lunch** etc. :

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

F

Platform 5 **Room 126** etc.

We do *not* use **the** before *noun + number*. For example, we say:

- Our train leaves from **Platform 5**. (*not* the Platform 5)
- (*in a shop*) Have you got these shoes in **size 43**? (*not* the size 43)

In the same way, we say: **Room 126** (in a hotel), **page 29** (of a book), **question 3** (in an exam), **Gate 10** (at an airport) etc.

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

- A: Where did you have lunch?
B: We went to restaurant.
- A: Did you have nice holiday?
B: Yes, it was best holiday I've ever had.
- A: Where's nearest shop?
B: There's one at end of this street.
- A: Do you often listen to radio?
B: No. In fact I haven't got radio.
- A: Would you like to travel in space?
B: Yes, I'd love to go to moon.
- A: Do you go to cinema very often?
B: No, not very often. But I watch a lot of films on television.
- A: It was nice day yesterday, wasn't it?
B: Yes, it was beautiful. We went for a walk by sea.
- A: What did you have for breakfast this morning?
B: Nothing. I never eat breakfast.
- A: Excuse me, where is Room 25, please?
B: It's on second floor.
- A: We spent all our money because we stayed at most expensive hotel in town.
B: Why didn't you stay at cheaper hotel?

73.2 Put in **the** where necessary. If you don't need **the**, leave the space empty.

- I haven't been to the cinema for ages.
- I lay down on ground and looked up at sky.
- Sarah spends most of her free time watching television.
- television was on, but nobody was watching it.
- Lisa and I arrived at same time.
- Have you had dinner yet?
- You'll find information you need at top of page 15.
- What's capital city of Canada?

73.3 Put in **the** or **a/an** where necessary. (See Unit 72 for **a/an** and **the** if necessary.)

- Sun is star. The sun is a star.
- Paul lives in small village in country.
- Moon goes round earth every 27 days.
- I'm fed up with doing same thing every day.
- It was very hot day. It was hottest day of year.
- I don't usually have lunch, but I always eat good breakfast.
- If you live in foreign country, you should try and learn language.
- We missed our train because we were waiting on wrong platform.
- Next train to London leaves from Platform 3.

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

breakfast **cinema** ~~**dinner**~~ **gate** **Gate 21** **question 8** **sea**

- 'Are you going out this evening?' 'Yes, after dinner
- There was no wind, so was very calm.
- The test wasn't too difficult, but I couldn't answer
- 'I'm going to tonight.' 'Are you? What are you going to see?'
- I didn't have time for this morning because I was in a hurry.
- Oh, is open. I must have forgotten to shut it.
- (*airport announcement*) Flight AB123 to Rome is now boarding at