

EXAMPLE	EXPLANATION
The bank gives you <i>a personal identification number</i> . You should memorize <b>the</b> number.	A noun is first introduced as an indefinite noun. When referring to it again, the definite article <i>the</i> is used.
Would you please get <b>the</b> milk out of <b>the</b> refrigerator?	The speaker is referring to a person or an object that is present.
<b>The</b> sun is not very bright in the winter. There are many problems in <b>the</b> world.	There is only one in our experience.
Where's <b>the</b> teacher? I have a question about <b>the</b> homework.	The speaker and the listener share a common experience. Students in the same class talk about <b>the</b> teacher, <b>the</b> homework, <b>the</b> chalkboard.
I spent <b>the</b> money you gave me.	The speaker defines or specifies exactly which one.
I went to <b>the</b> store for some groceries. I stopped by <b>the</b> bank to get some cash.	We often use <i>the</i> with certain familiar places and people when we refer to the one that we usually use: the bank      the beach      the bus the zoo      the post office      the train the park      the doctor      the store

## LANGUAGE NOTE:

We use the definite article *the* when the speaker and the listener have the same person(s) or object(s) in mind. The listener knows exactly what the speaker is referring to as in the examples above.

**EXERCISE 1** Read the following paragraph. Then fill in each blank with *a*, *an*, or *the*.

Yesterday I decided to find (Example) an apartment to rent. So I bought (1) a newspaper and found (2) an advertisement for (3) a one-bedroom apartment that sounded perfect for me. I called (4) the number printed in the paper. (5) The landlord answered, and he told me about (6) the apartment. Today I met (7) the landlord at (8) the apartment so that I could have a look at it. I liked (9) the living room, but (10) the bedroom was a little small. I decided to take it anyway.

(11) The apartment isn't furnished, so I'll have to get some furniture. Fortunately, I already have (12) a table and (13) an armchair. I will have to buy (14) a bed. I don't want to sleep on (15) the floor!

**EXERCISE 2** Insert *a, an, the, some, or any* wherever they are appropriate.

**Example:** My friends and I took a vacation. The vacation was wonderful.

1. It was a very quiet place.
2. Every day the sun woke us up as it came through the eastern window of the little cabin that we rented.
3. We made a good breakfast and drank some good hot tea with it.
4. There wasn't a telephone or a television in the cabin.
5. For entertainment we took some long walks in the countryside.
6. We had some good conversations.
7. Every day after lunch we wrote some postcards.
8. Then we mailed the postcards at a/the post office.
9. In the evening we watched the moon rise.
10. We looked for the first star.
11. We didn't feel any tension for the whole time that we were there.
12. We still talk about the wonderful time that we had together.

**EXERCISE 3** Unscramble the words to write correct sentences

**Example:** a / the / the / map / city / telephone book / find / of / can / you / in

You can find a map of the city in the telephone book.

1. today / a / the / the / is having / on / shop / corner / sale  
The shop on the corner is having a sale today.
2. teacher / we will have / substitute / so / a / teacher / the / is sick today  
The teacher is sick today, so we will have a substitute.
3. go to / at / look / zoo / bears / let's / the / the / and  
Let's go to the zoo and look at the bears.
4. to listen / like / rain / roof / on / the / the / I / to  
I like to listen to the rain on the roof.
5. dictionary / I / need / that I / to replace / lost / the  
I need to replace the dictionary that I lost.