- English Grammar in Use (Grammar Addition to the Textbook
 English for Pharmacy and Medical Bioanalytics)
- Mgr. Zuzana Katerová
- Definite Article

Definite article: the

The definite article *the* is the most frequent word in English.

We use the definite article in front of a noun when we believe the **hearer/reader knows** exactly what we are referring to.

• if there is **only one**:

The Pope is visiting Russia.

The moon is very bright tonight.

... the sun, the Earth, the internet, the space, the ground, the sky ...

• we use the definite article with a **superlative adjective**:

He is **the tallest boy** in the class.

It is **the oldest building** in the town.

He is **the most intelligent student** at the faculty.





• because there is **only one in that place** or in those surroundings:

We live in a small village next to the church .	=	(the church in our village)
Dad, can I borrow the car?	_	(the car that belongs to our family)
When we stayed at my grandmother's house we went to the beach every day.	=	(the beach near my grandmother's house)
Look at the boy in the blue shirt over there.	II	(the boy I am pointing at)

• because we have already mentioned it:

A woman who fell 10 meters from High Peak was lifted to safety by a helicopter. **The woman** fell while climbing.

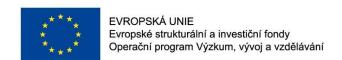
The rescue is the latest in a series of incidents on High Peak. In January last year two men walking on **the peak** were killed in a fall.

• to say something about **all the things** referred to by a noun:

The wolf is not really a dangerous animal (= Wolves are not really dangerous animals)
The kangaroo is found only in Australia (= Kangaroos are found only in Australia)
The heart pumps blood around the body. (= Hearts pump blood around bodies)

• to talk about **musical instruments**:

Joe plays **the piano** really well.(= Joe can play any piano)
She is learning **the guitar**.(= She is learning to play any guitar)





• to refer to a **system** or **service**:

How long does it take on the train.

I heard it on **the radio**.

You should tell the police.

• With adjectives like rich, poor, elderly, unemployed to talk about groups of people:

Life can be very hard for the poor.

I think **the rich** should pay more taxes.

She works for a group to help the disabled.

• we do not normally use the definite article with names:

William Shakespeare wrote Hamlet.

Paris is the capital of France.

Iran is in Asia.

But we do use the definite article with:

• countries whose names include words like *kingdom*, *states* or *republic*:

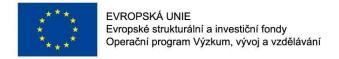
the United Kingdom; the Kingdom of Nepal; the United States; the People's Republic of China

• countries which have plural nouns as their names:

the Netherlands; the Philippines

• **geographical features**, such as mountain ranges, groups of islands, rivers, seas, oceans and canals:

the Himalayas; the Canaries; the Atlantic; the Atlantic Ocean; the Amazon; the Panama Canal





• newspapers:

The Times; The Washington Post

• buildings, well known buildings:

the cinema, the theatre, the railway station, the Empire State Building

works of art

the Mona Lisa; the Sunflowers

organizations:

the United Nations; the European Union

• hotels, pubs and restaurants*:

the Ritz; the Ritz Hotel; the King's Head;

*Note: We do not use the definite article if the name of the hotel or restaurant is the name of the owner, e.g., Brown's; Brown's Hotel; Morel's; Morel's Restaurant, etc.

• families:

the Obamas; the Jacksons

