

NOTE:

◆ We use *the* with the words *beach, station, cinema, theatre, coast, country(side), ground, jungle, seaside, weather, world, shop, library, city, sea* (BUT to be at sea = to be sailing), etc.

e.g. Let's go to *the beach*.

We spent the weekend in the countryside.

The weather is awful today.

◆ We usually don't use *the* with the word *television*.

e.g. I like watching *television* in the evenings.

BUT: Turn on *the television*, please. (*the television set*)

◆ *The* is optional with seasons.

e.g. My favourite season is (*the*) *spring*.

◆ We use *the* + adjective to refer to a group of people usually with the adjectives: *poor, rich, sick, injured, elderly, unemployed, homeless, disabled, young, old, dead, blind, deaf, handicapped, mentally ill*.

e.g. *The young* are usually impatient.

◆ When we refer to a group of people, animals or things we use:

1 *a/an* or *the* with singular countable nouns.

e.g. *A/The dolphin* is a clever creature.

2 plural countable nouns without *a/an* or *the*.

e.g. *Dolphins* are clever creatures.

(NOT: ~~*The dolphins* are clever creatures.~~)

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Fill in the gaps with one of the words from the list adding 'the' where necessary. Use each word twice.

prison, school, bed, sea, hospital

- 1 The minute we reached the beach, the children ran into ...*the sea*... to swim.
- 2 My brother is in the navy. He is at for months sometimes.
- 3 I usually go to at about 11 pm to get a good night's sleep.
- 4 The cat is sitting on
- 5 The Prime Minister visited yesterday and talked to the prisoners.
- 6 The men who robbed the bank are in now.
- 7 The ambulance took the injured people to
- 8 I must go to to visit my aunt. She's had an operation.
- 9 We saw the children in their classrooms as we walked past
- 10 I want to go to university when I leave

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Choose the correct alternative.

- 1 Catherine loves cats/*the cats*.
- 2 Look at cats/*the cats*! They are chasing a bird.
- 3 I don't like coffee/*the coffee*, but I like tea/*the tea*.
- 4 You cut the cake/*cake* and I'll pour coffee/*the coffee*.
- 5 Life/*The life* will be very different in the future.
- 6 Life/*The life* of a mayfly is extremely short.
- 7 I enjoy swimming/*the swimming* in the sea.
- 8 Children/*The children* usually like playing games.
- 9 Children/*The children* have gone to the park.
- 10 All people/*the people* in this room are my relatives.
- 11 All people/*the people* should have freedom of speech.
- 12 Villages/*The villages* in this part of the country are very beautiful.
- 13 Breakfast/*The breakfast* is the most important meal of day/*the day*.
- 14 Paul was only/*the only* person who remembered me.
- 15 In Stone Age/*the Stone Age*, people lived in caves.
- 16 I would like to travel to Spain/*the Spain*.
- 17 We travelled to London by train/*the train*.
- 18 He is learning to play flute/*the flute*.

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Fill in *a, an* or *the* where necessary.

- 1 A: Shall we go to ...*the*... cinema tonight?
B: Yes. It's a long time since I saw film.
- 2 A: Have you ever been to Copenhagen?
B: Yes. I think it's prettiest city in Europe.
- 3 A: Did you see all sights in Paris?
B: Yes, but Eiffel Tower and Louvre were my favourites.
- 4 A: What did you have for lunch today?
B: I had sandwich in office canteen.
- 5 A: Do you buy newspaper every day?
B: Yes. I usually buy Independent and my wife reads Times.
- 6 A: Danny plays golf very well, doesn't he?
B: Yes, he practises every weekend with his friends.
- 7 A: Which station are you meeting John at?
B: Waterloo Station. It's big place. I hope I find him easily.
- 8 A: Are you going on holiday this summer?
B: Yes. We've booked holiday for three weeks in Canary Islands.
- 9 A: What did you see on your tour today?
B: Buckingham Palace and Houses of Parliament.
- 10 A: Duponts, who live next door to us, are French.
B: French are very friendly people, aren't they?
- 11 A: That's beautiful dress. Where did you get it?
B: In summer sale at Harrods, actually.
- 12 A: Who is going to open new shopping centre?
B: I heard that Queen is going to do it.