

The

We use the when there is only one of something

The highest mountain of the world is the Himalaya.

My college roommate is visiting at the end of the month.

We say: the sky, the ocean, the sea, the ground, the country, the environment. We use the before same. We say the movies, the theater. We usually say the radio, but television or TV (without the). We do not normally use the with the names of meals (breakfast, lunch, etc.). We do not use the before noun+ number, room 126, page 29, question 3 platform 6.

We should recycle to protect the environment.

There are endangered species in the ocean.

We use prison/jail, college, class, and church when we are thinking of the general idea of these places. We say go to bed/be in bed, etc. We say go home, come home, arrive home, get home, be home. We say go to work, be at work, start work, finish work, etc.

What time do you get off work?

When we are talking about things or things in general, we do not use the. We use the when we mean specific things or people. The difference between something in general and something specific is not always clear.

The movie plot was very interesting, but I hated the movie cast.

We use the+ adjective (without noun) to talk about groups of people, especially the young, the old, the elderly, the rich, the poor, the homeless, the sick, the disabled, the unemployed, the blind, the deaf, the injured, the dead.

Do you think the unemployed should receive government bonuses?

We can use the+ nationality adjectives that end in -ch or -sh (the French/the English/the Spanish, etc). The meaning is the people of that country. You can also use the+ nationalities ending in -ese (the Chinese/the Sudanese/the Japanese, etc). With other nationalities, the plural noun ends in -s and we do not normally use the to talk about the people in general.

The English invented football.

We use the (+singular countable noun) in this way to talk about a type of animal, machine, etc. In the same way we use the for musical instruments. Note that we use man (human beings in general/the human race) without the.

The dollar is the currency of Ecuador.

I can't play the guitar.

How many cups of coffee do Americans drink?

Have you ever had breakfast in bed?

I was in class all morning today.

Sugar isn't healthy for you.

Rodrigo and I had lunch in the most expensive restaurant.

Exercises

_____ television was on, we learned about the tragic news.

We heard on _____ radio that _____ 18 year-old boy was mugged and murder on _____ bus.

How often do you go to _____ movies?

I would like to go Brussels, _____ political capital of Europe.

Fabian and Jessica got married about 9 years ago, _____ marriage was a success.