



# Using 'a', 'an' and 'the' (cont.)

## A/an

- Used with the sense of 'every' in expressions of time and quantity:

### Example

Forty times **an** hour

Two dollars **a** kilo

## The

- Used with forms of entertainment, travel and leisure activities:

### Example

I went to **the cinema**.

I went to **the shops**.

I arrived at **the airport**.

I arrived at **the bus stop**.

I play **the piano**.

I play **the violin**.

- Used in the names of items in the following categories:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ rivers: <b>the</b> Ganges</li> <li>○ mountain ranges: <b>the</b> Andes</li> <li>○ oceans and seas: <b>the</b> Atlantic</li> <li>○ deserts : <b>the</b> Sahara</li> <li>○ groups of island: <b>the</b> Maldives</li> <li>○ hotels: <b>the</b> Hilton</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ cinemas: <b>the</b> Odeon</li> <li>○ political bodies : <b>the</b> Labour Party</li> <li>○ countries whose names include political terms/plural nouns: <b>the</b> Philippines, <b>the</b> United Kingdom, <b>the</b> Czech Republic</li> </ul>
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## No article

- 'Belonging' to institutions
  - No article is used before the name of certain kinds of institutions when we want to show that someone is part of that institution.

### Example

hospital church prison college university sea (the navy)

Is she still in **[ ]** hospital?

He went to sea when he was only fourteen.



- Meals
  - No article is used in expressions which involve using the names of meals to describe an occasion.

### Example

She came to **[]** lunch.

- Time expressions
  - No article is used in most time expressions.

### Example

next **[]** week      last **[]** year      on **[]** Sunday

- Work, home and bed
  - **The** is left out after verbs of motion in expressions with work, home and bed when we use these words to describe the concept rather than a particular place or piece of furniture.

### Example

She left **[]** work.      I got **[]** home.      She went to **[]** bed.