



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:

○ rivers: **the** Ganges

○ mountain ranges: **the** Andes

○ oceans and seas: **the** Atlantic

○ deserts : **the** Sahara

○ groups of island: **the** Maldives

○ hotels: **the** Hilton

○ cinemas: **the** Odeon

○ political bodies : **the** Labour Party

○ countries whose names include political terms/plural nouns: **the** Philippines, **the** United Kingdom, **the** Czech Republic

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.

Useful links *(all open in a new window)*

There may be resources that have been created with your lecturers, addressing assignment tasks and topics specific to your courses. Follow the links below to find out:

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