

## ARTICLES (5)

### Definite Article 'the' (02) – Part B: Medium

In context

2 min

What is a definite article?



*the* phone



*the* papers

'the' is a definite article.

## Definite Article 'the'

13 min

'The' is a definite article: it is used before a particular or definite object. It can be singular or plural.

### Examples:

This is **the** cat, which caught **the** rat.

These are **the** cats, which caught **the** rats.

**The** woman who talked to me is **the** Minister's wife.

We also use 'the' before an object or a person of which there is only one. This includes the names of seas, rivers, chains of islands, mountain ranges (but not mountains), and countries when their name includes a noun (such as state, kingdom...).

### Examples:

**The** earth rotates around **the** sun.

**The** river Thames flows into **the** North Sea.

He travels from **the** United States to **the** United Kingdom every year.

'The' is used before superlatives.

### Examples:

**The** most expensive object is not necessarily **the** best.

She was **the** first woman from here to become a doctor.

**The** nearest bakery is down the street.

'The' also refers to a class of people or objects.

### Examples:

**The** enene is the official state bird of Hawaii.

Alexander Graham Bell invented **the** telephone.

Certain restrictions caused unrest among **the** workers.

## Language Tips about the Pronunciation of 'the'

5 min

We write "the" but can say "the" or "thee".

We say "the" when the next word begins with a consonant sound.

**Examples:**

*the* car

*the* boy

We say "thee" when the next word begins with a vowel sound.

**Examples:**

*the* apple (we say "*thee* apple")

*the* image (we say "*thee* image")

It is the sound that matters, not the letter we write. So we say "thee" before a vowel sound, not necessarily before a vowel. Likewise, we say "the" before a consonant sound, not necessarily before a consonant.

**Examples:**

*the*house

*the*hour (we say "*thee*hour")

When we wish to place emphasis on a particular word, 'the' is pronounced "thee", whether or not the next word begins with a consonant or vowel sound.

**Example:**

This is *the* (pronounced "*thee*") best brownie I have ever had!

## Writing Exercise with the Teacher

5 min

**Complete these sentences with 'a', 'an', or 'the', and read them to your teacher.**

1. I need \_\_\_\_\_ pen to write my paper.
2. I hope you know \_\_\_\_\_ address to go to the hospital.
3. Can you give me \_\_\_\_\_ umbrella that is in the car please?
4. Mike has \_\_\_\_\_ bicycle.
5. This is \_\_\_\_\_ bicycle I want for my birthday.
6. Do you have \_\_\_\_\_ email address?
7. Can you see \_\_\_\_\_ email address on the brochure?
8. Would you like \_\_\_\_\_ apple?
9. \_\_\_\_\_ phone is ringing in the bedroom.
10. He is speaking to \_\_\_\_\_ man I don't know.

## Reading Exercise with the Teacher

5 min

**Read these words to your teacher.**

1. the honest person
2. the unit
3. the urban legends
4. the hotel
5. the yacht

## Watch the Video!

5 min

**In this video lesson, you will review the difference between definite and indefinite articles.**

**Watch the video:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHi2gRNsTxg&feature=related>

**Watch it again and choose the correct answer.**

1. What category do articles belong to?
  - a. determiners
  - b. adverbs

c. demonstratives

2. What does the definite article refer to?

- a. no particular or definite entity
- b. a particular or definite entity
- c. the verb

3. What is the letter 'y'?

- a. a vowel
- b. a consonant
- c. a diphthong

Answers: 1a, 2b, 3b

## Quiz

10 min

### True or False?

1. 'the' is an indefinite article.
2. We use 'the' before an object or a person of which there is only one.
3. We only pronounce "thee" when the next word begins with a vowel.
4. When we wish to place emphasis on a particular word, 'the' is pronounced "thee".

Put the words in the list in the correct columns:

hour, house, honor, CIA, United States, urbanization, FBI, ferry

"the" is pronounced "the"	"the" is pronounced "thee"

Complete the sentences with 'a', 'an' or 'the':

1. Would you mind taking \_\_\_\_\_ metro?
2. Would you mind calling \_\_\_\_\_ cab for me, please?
3. It was \_\_\_\_\_ honest mistake.
4. This nation is \_\_\_\_\_ newest UN member.