

224 Make the following uncountable nouns plural as in the example:

1. ice	two	<i>ice cubes</i>	8. advice	two	.....	15. paper	two	.....
2. toast	three	.....	9. sugar	two	.....	16. hockey	two	.....
3. soap	two	.....	10. yoghurt	two	.....	17. chocolate	three	.....
4. tea	two	.....	11. wood	three	.....	18. spectacles	two	.....
5. lamb	three	.....	12. news	two	.....	19. toothpaste	three	.....
6. ink	two	.....	13. jam	three	.....	20. information	two	.....
7. cola	two	.....	14. beef	three	.....	21. spaghetti	three	.....

A/An - The

A/An is used only with singular countable nouns to talk about things in general. We don't use **a/an** with uncountable or plural nouns. We can use **some** instead. **A/An** is often used after the verbs **be** and **have**.
A cat is a domestic animal. (Which cat? Cats in general.) Bring me some milk, please!

We can use **a/an** or **the** before a singular countable noun to refer to a class of people, animals or things. However, we omit **a/an** or **the** before a noun in the plural when it represents a class.

A/The dolphin is a mammal. Also: Dolphins are mammals. Exception: Man is a mammal too. (not: The man)

The is used with singular and plural nouns, countable and uncountable ones, to talk about something specific, or when the noun is mentioned for a second time.

Whose is the van parked in front of our house? (Which van? The one parked in front of our house.)

He found a cat in the park. He took the cat home. (The word "cat" is mentioned for a second time.)

The is also used with the words **beach, cinema, country(side), ground, jungle, radio, sea, seaside, theatre, world** etc. eg. *He likes going to the theatre. We usually say "television" without "the". We often watch television. but: Turn on the television (set). We also say: He lives near the sea. but: They are at sea (= they are sailing.) We normally omit "the" before the words last and next when we talk about a period of time immediately before or after the moment of speaking. He graduated last year. I'll meet you next week. I went to work on Monday but the next day I stayed at home.*

225 Fill in: a, an or the.

- 1) .. *The* ... tiger is 2) large carnivorous animal which belongs to 3) cat family. 4) males are about three feet high and can be as long as twelve feet, including 5) tail. There are about eight varieties of tiger found around 6) world. 7) tiger is 8) wild animal, which lives in 9) jungle where water and prey are plentiful. 10) tiger will only attack 11) person if it is starving or if it is threatened. 12) tiger is 13) easily recognized animal as it has 14) thick yellow or white coat with distinctive black stripes.



226 Fill in: a, an or the where necessary.

- Last summer we went to 1) .. *the* ... seaside for two weeks. Unfortunately, we hadn't booked 2) accommodation before we went, and we had 3) awful time finding 4) room to stay in. 5) only room we could find was very small, but it had 6) lovely view of 7) sea and was only two minutes from 8) beach. 9) weather was very hot, and on 10) first day I stayed out so long, I got 11) terrible sunburn and had to stay in bed 12) next day. After that, however, everything went well and we had 13) wonderful holiday.

10. Nouns - Articles

The is used before:

nouns which are unique. *the Earth, the Eiffel Tower*

names of cinemas (*the Rex*), hotels (*the Sheraton*), theatres (*the Apollo*), museums (*the Prado*), newspapers/magazines (*The Guardian*, **but:** *Newsweek*), ships (*the Marie Celeste*), institutions (*the RSPCA*), galleries (*the Tate Gallery*).

names of rivers (*the Seine*), seas (*the Black Sea*), groups of islands/states (*the Bahamas, the USA*), mountain ranges (*the Alps*), deserts (*the Sahara desert*), oceans (*the Atlantic*), canals (*the Suez Canal*) and names or nouns with "of" (*the Tower of London, the Statue of Liberty*).

Note: *the equator, the North/South Pole, the north of England, the South/West/North/East*

musical instruments, dances. *the piano, the tango*

names of families (*the Browns*), nationalities ending in -sh, -ch or -ese (*the English, the Dutch, the Japanese*). Other plural nationalities are used with or without the (*the Greeks, the Italians etc*).

titles (*the Queen, the Prince*). "The" is omitted before titles with proper names (*Queen Victoria*).

adjectives used as plural nouns (*the poor, the rich, the young, the blind etc*) and the superlative degree of adjectives/adverbs (*the worst*).

She's the most beautiful girl in her class.

Note: "most" used as a determiner followed by a noun, does not take "the".

Most people believe he's a liar.

the words station, shop, cinema, pub, library, city, village etc.

She went to the station to see Jim off.

morning, afternoon, evening, night.

I'll be at home in the evening. **but:** at night, at noon, at midnight, by day/night, at 4 o'clock etc.

historical references/events. *the Renaissance, the Middle Ages, the First World War (but: World War I)*

only, last, first (used as adjectives).

He was the last person to come.

The is omitted before:

proper nouns. *Jim comes from New York.*

names of sports, games, activities, days, months, holidays, colours, drinks, meals and languages (not followed by the word "language").

She plays squash well. She likes red. We speak English. **but:** *The English language is spoken all over the world.*

names of countries (*Italy*), cities (*Rome*), streets (*Oxford Street*, **but:** *the High Street*), squares (*Trafalgar Square*), bridges (*Tower Bridge* **but:** *the Golden Gate Bridge, the Severn Bridge*), parks (*Hyde Park*), stations (*Victoria Station*), individual mountains (*Everest*), islands (*Cyprus*), lakes (*Lake Michigan*), continents (*Europe*) **but:** *the Argentine, the Netherlands, (the) Sudan, the Hague, the Vatican.*

possessive adjectives. *This isn't your bag.*

two-word names whose first word is the name of a person or place. *Kennedy Airport, Westminster Abbey* **but:** *the White House*, (because the first word "White" is not the name of a person or place.)

pubs, restaurants, shops, banks and hotels which have the name of their founder and end in -s or -'s. *Harrods, Lloyds Bank, Emma's pub* **but:** *the White Horse (pub)* (because "White" is not a name)

bed, church, college, court, hospital, prison, school, university, when we refer to the purpose for which they exist.

Tom was sent to prison. (He is a prisoner.) **but:** *His mother went to the prison to see him last week. (She went to the prison as a visitor.)*

Work (place of work) never takes "the".
She's at work.

the words home, father/mother when we talk about our own home/parents.
Mother is at home.

means of transport: by bus/by car/by train/by plane etc **but:** in the car, on the bus/train etc.
She travelled by plane. **but:** *She left on the 6 o'clock plane yesterday.*

illnesses. *He's got malaria.* But we say: **flu/the flu, measles/the measles, mumps/the mumps**