



# Articles 2

Grammar > Intermediate 5



## Exercise 1 – Learning

In this lesson, we will learn about the article '**the**' with **proper nouns**.

A proper noun is a specific name for a particular person, place, or thing. Since proper nouns already refer to something specific, most do not need to be used with the specifying article '**the**'.

Examples:

- **Julie** is reading a book. (= *not 'The Julie'*)
- **London** is a city in **England**. (= *not 'the London' or 'the England'*)
- **Starbucks** is a famous coffee shop.
- I made my mother breakfast for **Mother's Day**.
- The kids like **Harry Potter**. (= *books/movies in the Harry Potter series*)
- They want to climb **Mt. Everest**.
- Let's go to **Roosevelt Island** this weekend.



## When do we use 'the' with proper nouns?

We use **'the'** with:

### 1. Proper nouns that include 'of':

- **the** University **of** Massachusetts (*'Harvard University' would not use 'the'.*)
- **the** United States (**of** America), **the** United Kingdom (**of** Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

### 2. Proper Nouns that are rivers, oceans, and structures:

- *rivers*: **the** Amazon, **the** Mississippi (River)
- *oceans and seas*: **the** Pacific Ocean, **the** Indian Ocean, **the** Red Sea
- *structures*: **the** Empire State Building, **the** Eiffel Tower



### 3. Plural proper nouns:

- *groups of people*: **the** Smiths (= *the Smith family*), **the** Beatles (= *group of singers*)
- *mountain ranges*: **the** Andes, **the** Himalayas
- *groups of islands*: **the** Philippines (Islands), **the** Galapagos Islands, **the** British Isles, **the** Bahamas (Islands)
- *groups of lakes*: **the** Great Lakes
- *other*: **the** Netherlands (historically meant 'the Low Lands')



## Exercise 2 – Fill in the Blanks

*Fill in the blanks by putting the article 'the' where it is needed in these sentences.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Mexico is south of \_\_\_\_\_ United States.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Empire State Building is taller than \_\_\_\_\_ Eiffel Tower.
3. In the book, \_\_\_\_\_ Huckleberry Finn, the main character travels up \_\_\_\_\_ Mississippi River.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Canada and \_\_\_\_\_ Mexico are located in \_\_\_\_\_ North America.
5. Next month, I will visit \_\_\_\_\_ Cebu in \_\_\_\_\_ Philippines.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Smiths like going to \_\_\_\_\_ McDonald's.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Peter will apply to \_\_\_\_\_ University of Cambridge and \_\_\_\_\_ University of Oxford.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Julie will apply to \_\_\_\_\_ Cambridge and \_\_\_\_\_ Oxford.



## Exercise 3 – Identifying

*Identify if the article 'the' is used correctly in these sentences.*

**Example:** Let's go to the Bahamas for Christmas. → Correct.

### Content:

1. She wants to visit the UK, the US, and Australia.
2. My favorite book is “To Kill a Mockingbird” by the Harper Lee.
3. I'm taking an interesting class on animals in the Pacific Ocean.
4. The Joneses are going to the Birmingham next week.
5. She wants to visit the New York.
6. David wants to climb the Mt. Everest.
7. Do you want to see the Empire State Building and the Hudson River?
8. Where will you take your dad for the Father's Day?