



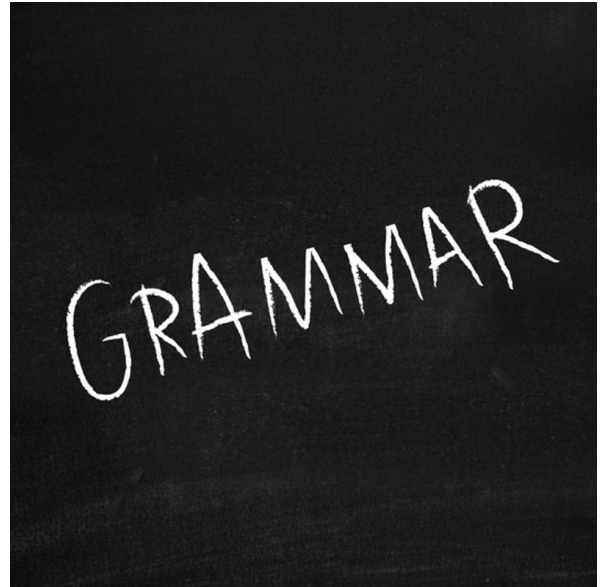
NOUNS 2: SPECIAL OMISSIONS OF THE DEFINITE ARTICLE



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:

16L3-F3M8-5G82



1

Presentation

In some situations, **the** is not normally used before certain nouns.

1. Names of meals

We do not normally use **the** with names of meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner etc.)

What did you have for **lunch**?

We usually have **dinner** at 8 pm.

If there is an adjective before the name of the meal, we use **a**:

I had a very **nice breakfast**.

But we use **the** when we give extra information about a particular meal:

The breakfast that you made this morning was excellent.

2. School, church, prison, college

Fiona goes to **school** every day. This morning, Fiona's mother went to **the school** to see her daughter's teacher.

We do not use **the** before school when we are thinking of the idea or use of school (i.e. a place for learning). When we are thinking of a particular school (e.g. Fiona's school), we use **the**. We can also say:

Fiona's daughter is at **school**. (= as a pupil)

Fiona's mother is at **the school**. (= as a visitor)

We talk about **church**, **prison**, and **college** in the same way:

Margaret stole a car. She is in **prison** right now. (as a prisoner) Her husband is going to **the prison** to visit her. (as a visitor in a particular prison)

Marcin goes to **church** every Sunday. (for a religious service) Last week, there was a small fire at **the church**. (the building)



3. Noun + number

We do not use **the** before a **noun + number**:

Turn to **page 24**. Anne is staying in **Room 23**. The next train leaves from **Platform 3**.

4. Other expressions

We do not use **the** in the following expressions:

I feel very tired now. I'm going to **bed**. (to sleep)

BUT: I found my grammar book under **the bed**. (a particular piece of furniture)

I'm going **home** now.

Tom is not at **home** at the moment.

What time do you start **work**? (your job)

BUT: **The work** you did for me was excellent. (a particular piece of work)

Dialogue

- After **dinner**, I'm going **home**. I must go to **bed**.
- Why so early?
- Well, I have to get up for **work** tomorrow morning. And after that, I'm going to visit my brother. He is in **prison**.

2

Practice 1

Complete the pairs of sentences below with the following words. Use 'the' where necessary.

bed **church** **college** **lunch** **prison** **school** **work**

1. Samuel is a Catholic. He goes to _____ every Sunday.
Yesterday, I went to _____ to take pictures of the spire.
2. _____ we had yesterday at the new restaurant was delicious.
Would you like to have _____ with me today?
3. What were your favorite subjects at _____ ?
Mrs. Perez went to _____ to speak to her daughter's teacher.
4. Five years ago, Victor robbed a bank. He is still in _____ .
Andrew went to _____ to visit his brother Victor.
5. I sat down on _____ and thought about what to do that day.
Jack isn't up yet. He is still in _____ .
6. Alice is a medical student. She goes to _____ every day.
The roofers went to _____ to repair the roof of the science faculty building.
7. Can you show me _____ you did for me yesterday?
If you don't leave now you will be late for _____ !



3

Practice 2

Complete the following sentences with 'the' or '-' if no word is required.

1. You can find an explanation of the grammar on _____ Page 32.
2. I didn't see you at the party last night. Were you at _____ home?
3. _____ home we saw yesterday was affordable and well-located. I think we should buy it.
4. Here are your keys, sir. You are staying in _____ Room 26.
5. I'm rather hungry. What time is _____ dinner?
6. "How do I get to the bus station?" "Go to _____ school at the end of the street and turn left."
7. What time do you start _____ work?
8. Oxford Street station is located in _____ Zone 1.



Key

2. Practice 1

1. church; the church
2. The lunch; lunch
3. school; the school
4. prison; the prison
5. the bed; bed
6. college; the college
7. the work; work

3. Practice 2

1. -
2. -
3. The
4. -
5. -
6. the
7. -
8. -