



# NOUNS 3:

# TALKING IN

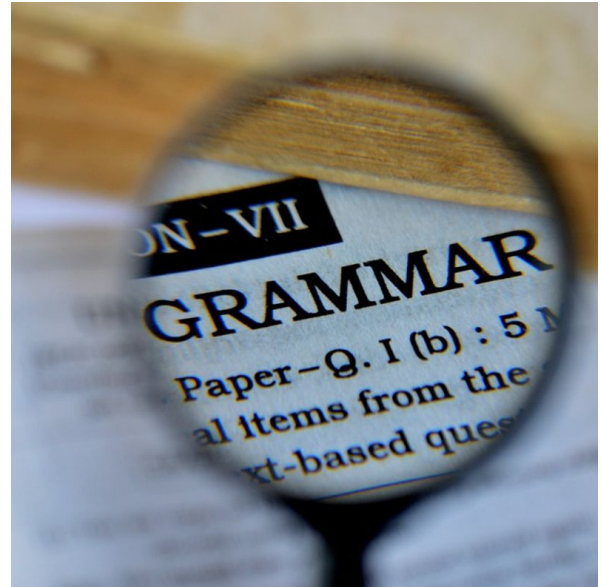
# GENERAL



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Expemo code:

16L3-F3M8-THVP



## 1

### Presentation

1. When we are talking about things or people in general, we do not normally use **the** with uncountable and plural nouns.

THINGS OR PEOPLE IN GENERAL

Do you prefer **dogs** or **cats**?

I like **Italian food**, especially **pizza** and **pasta**.

I don't like **people** who shout. (people who shout in general)

Jack eats all the time. He really likes **food**.

Maria often listens to **music**.

When we are talking about particular things or people, we normally use **the**:

PARTICULAR THINGS OR PEOPLE

I don't like **the people** who live next door. (a particular group of people)

We went to that new restaurant last night. **The food** was excellent.

**The music** they played at the party wasn't very good.

2. **the + adjective**

We can use **the + adjective** to talk about a group of people in general, e.g. the old, the young, the rich, the poor, the disabled, the homeless, etc. The meaning is always plural:

**The rich** (= rich people) have more money than **the poor** (= poor people).

The government should do more to help **the homeless** and **the unemployed**.

We use **the** with some nationality adjectives to talk about people from a particular country:

**The French** are passionate about food.

America was discovered by **the Spanish** in 1492.

In general, we can use **the + adjective** for nationality adjectives ending in -sh, -ch, -ese or -ss:

**the British**

**the Dutch**

**the Chinese**

**the Swiss**



With other nationalities, we can only use the plural noun:  
an Italian (singular noun) - **(the) Italians** (plural noun)

a Scot - **(the) Scots**

an Iraqi - **(the) Iraqis**

a German - **(the) Germans**

3. **the + type of animal, machine, currency, etc.**

**The cheetah** is the fastest land animal.

**The euro** is the currency used in the European Union.

Lee Ming plays **the guitar** very well.

In the above examples, we use **the + singular** countable noun to talk about a particular type of animal, currency, and musical instrument in general. The meaning is not one particular thing.

**The computer** is a very useful machine. (a type of machine)

**The computer** that I ordered has arrived. (a particular computer)

**Dialogue**

- Do you like **travel**?
- Yes, I love it. Last month, I visited Spain. **The Spanish** are very friendly people.
- How did you get there?
- I went by train. **The train** is my favorite means of transport.

**2**

**Practice 1**

In each sentence below, choose the correct form, with or without 'the':

1. The computers/Computers are very important in our lives.
2. The milk/Milk you bought this morning wasn't very fresh.
3. John doesn't usually drink the coffee/coffee . He prefers the tea/tea
4. The vegetables/Vegetables are good for you.
5. I don't like the cold weather/cold weather . I always try to go somewhere hot on my vacations.
6. I enjoyed my visit to Russia, although I didn't like the cold weather/cold weather very much.
7. The advice/Advice you gave me was very useful.
8. John often spends his Saturday afternoons playing the football/football with his friends.
9. Jane travels a lot. She enjoys meeting the people/people and learning the languages/languages.
10. I never stay in the hotels/hotels that are very expensive.
11. We couldn't eat at that restaurant. All the tables/tables were booked.
12. A philosopher is somebody who studies or writes about the meaning of the life/life .
13. Hurry up if you want to do some shopping. The stores/Stores are going to close in half an hour.
14. Most of the people/Most people have access/the access to the internet on a regular basis.
15. I prefer the children/children who are quiet and well-behaved.
16. Last weekend, we took the children/children to see their grandparents.



## 3

## Practice 2

Complete the sentences below using 'the' + one of the following adjectives:

disabled

educated

homeless

hungry

injured

rich

unemployed

1. The government needs to do more to help \_\_\_\_\_ find jobs.
2. Most parking lots have special parking spaces for \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Timothy works for an organization that provides food for \_\_\_\_\_ in Africa.
4. Immediately after the accident, \_\_\_\_\_ were taken to the hospital.
5. There is a huge gap between \_\_\_\_\_ and poor.
6. The dictator started to imprison \_\_\_\_\_ in order to strengthen his power over the people.
7. The local government decided to build special tents for \_\_\_\_\_.



## 4

## Practice 3

Answer the following questions with 'the' + nationality adjective or plural noun ending in -s. Use a dictionary if necessary.

Example: Who lives in England, Scotland, and Wales? *The British*

1. Who eats sushi as a national dish?
2. Who lives in the Netherlands?
3. Who once had a large empire that included most of South America and parts of North America?
4. Who eats pizza and pasta as part of their national cuisine?
5. Who hosted the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing?
6. Which people have Warsaw as their capital city?
7. Who elected Vladimir Putin as their president in 2000 and 2004?
8. Which people live in the Republic of Ireland?
9. Who speaks four official languages - German, French, Italian, and Romansch?
10. Who built pyramids and developed the hieroglyphics writing system thousands of years ago?



## 5

## Practice 4

Complete the sentences below with 'the' + one of the following nouns:

airplane

cell phone

dollar

giraffe

pineapple

potato

rifle

saxophone

whale

wheel

- \_\_\_\_\_ is the currency of the United States.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the tallest animal in the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the largest tropical fruits.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a popular instrument with jazz musicians.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the fastest vehicle for traveling long distances.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the largest sea animal in the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the fastest and most popular way that people communicate.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a type of gun designed to be accurate at long distances.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the oldest inventions in the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a round vegetable which grows underground.

Now answer the following questions using 'the' + a suitable noun:

- What is the currency of your country?
- Which musical instruments can you play?
- Which means of transport do you use?
- What is your favorite animal?
- Which technological inventions do you use everyday?

## 6

## Practice 5

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

- I don't like \_\_\_\_\_ people who complain all the time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ crocodile is one of the most dangerous animals in Africa.
- The city is building new housing for \_\_\_\_\_ elderly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ French are known for their love of good food.
- Do you think that \_\_\_\_\_ French is a difficult language to learn?
- Sandra loves \_\_\_\_\_ shoes. She buys a new pair almost every week!
- \_\_\_\_\_ shoes I bought yesterday don't fit me. I'll have to return them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ time flies when you're having fun.
- Anna is a nurse. She looks after \_\_\_\_\_ sick.
- I like \_\_\_\_\_ classical music. \_\_\_\_\_ piano is my favorite instrument.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Paper was invented by \_\_\_\_\_ Chinese.
- In London, \_\_\_\_\_ subway is the cheapest and most efficient form of transport for \_\_\_\_\_ tourists.



# Key

## 2. Practice 1

- |                      |                         |                |                  |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. Computers         | 2. The milk             | 3. coffee; tea | 4. Vegetables    |
| 5. cold weather      | 6. the cold weather     | 7. The advice  | 8. football      |
| 9. people; languages | 10. hotels              | 11. the tables | 12. life         |
| 13. The stores       | 14. Most people; access | 15. children   | 16. the children |

## 3. Practice 2

- |                   |                 |                 |                |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. the unemployed | 2. the disabled | 3. the hungry   | 4. the injured |
| 5. the rich       | 6. the educated | 7. the homeless |                |

## 4. Practice 3

- |                     |                 |                |                 |                   |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. the Japanese     | 2. the Dutch    | 3. the Spanish | 4. the Italians | 5. the Chinese    |
| 6. the Polish/Poles | 7. the Russians | 8. the Irish   | 9. the Swiss    | 10. the Egyptians |

## 5. Practice 4

- |               |                   |                  |                  |                 |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. The dollar | 2. The giraffe    | 3. The pineapple | 4. The saxophone | 5. The airplane |
| 6. The whale  | 7. The cell phone | 8. The rifle     | 9. The wheel     | 10. The potato  |

## 6. Practice 5

- |        |        |        |            |            |            |
|--------|--------|--------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. -   | 2. The | 3. the | 4. The     | 5. -       | 6. -       |
| 7. The | 8. -   | 9. the | 10. -; The | 11. -; the | 12. the; - |