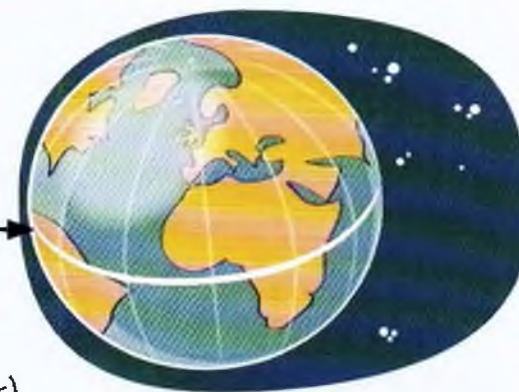


A

We use **the** when there is only one of something:

- ☐ Have you ever crossed **the equator**?
(there is only one equator)
- ☐ What's **the longest** river in Europe?
- ☐ Our apartment is on **the tenth** floor.
- ☐ Buenos Aires is **the capital** of Argentina.
- ☐ I'm going away at **the end** of this month.

THE EQUATOR



We use **the** before **same** (**the same**):

- ☐ Your sweater is **the same** colour as mine. (*not is same colour*)
- ☐ 'Are these keys **the same**?' 'No, they're different.'

B

We say:

the sun	the moon	the earth	the world	the universe
the sky	the sea	the ground	the environment	the internet

- ☐ I love to look at the stars in **the sky**. (*not in sky*)
- ☐ **The internet** has changed the way we live.
- ☐ We need to do more to protect **the environment**. (= the natural world around us)
- ☐ **The earth** goes round **the sun**, and **the moon** goes round **the earth**.

We also use '**Earth**' (without **the**) when we think of it as a planet in space (like **Mars**, **Jupiter** etc.).

- ☐ Which planet is nearest **Earth**?

We say **space** (without **the**) when we mean 'space in the universe'. Compare

- ☐ There are millions of stars **in space**. (*not in the space*)
- ☐ I tried to park my car, but **the space** was too small.

We use **a/an** to say what kind of thing something is (see Unit 71B). Compare **the** and **a**:

- ☐ **The** sun is **a** star. (= one of many stars)
- ☐ **The** hotel we stayed at was **a** very nice hotel.

C

We say: (go to) **the cinema**, **the theatre**.

- ☐ I go to **the cinema** a lot, but I haven't been to **the theatre** for ages.

When we say **the cinema** / **the theatre**, we do not necessarily mean a specific cinema or theatre.

We usually say **the radio**, but **television/TV** (without **the**). Compare:

- ☐ I listen to **the radio** a lot. *but* I watch **television** a lot.
- ☐ We heard it on **the radio**. *but* We watched it on **TV**.

The television / **the** TV = the television set:

- ☐ Can you turn off **the television**, please?

D

We do not normally use **the** with **breakfast/lunch/dinner**:

- ☐ What did you have for **breakfast**?
- ☐ We had **lunch** in a very nice restaurant.

But we use **a/an** if we say 'a **big** lunch', 'a **wonderful** dinner', 'an **early** breakfast' etc. :

- ☐ We had **a** very **nice** **lunch**. (*not* We had very nice lunch)

E

We do *not* use **the** before *noun + number*. For example, we say:

- ☐ Our train leaves from **Platform 5**. (*not the Platform 5*)
- ☐ (*in a shop*) Do you have these shoes in **size 43**? (*not the size 43*)

In the same way, we say: **Room 126** (in a hotel), **page 29** (of a book), **question 3** (in an exam), **Gate 10** (at an airport) etc.