

Session 3

Our journey continues! In this session we visit two more of the world's great cities. We explore some special rules for using articles and Emma teaches us how to pronounce them correctly.

Activity 1

'The' and the zero article

A message from Dubai

Emma's travelling friends are still sending her messages. Join her as she reads a letter from Catherine, and learn when to use the zero article.

Show transcript

Explanation

When should we use **the** and when should we use **the zero article (-)** ? Read the rules carefully:

Use 'the' with...

- 1) Countries with plural names or with Republic or Kingdom in the name: *The United Arab Emirates, The Netherlands, The United Kingdom.*
- 2) Geographical areas in noun phrases: *I live in the north-west of Egypt; in the east.*
- 3) The names of rivers, seas, oceans and mountain ranges: *The Mississippi, The Black Sea, The Atlantic, The Urals.*
- 4) Parts of the day: *In the morning/afternoon/evening.*
- 5) Most prepositional phrases of position and place: *At the top, on the left, at the office/bank/cinema.*
- 6) Most prepositional phrases with 'of': *At the end of my holiday; in the middle of the night*
- 7) Superlative adjectives: *He is the oldest son.*

Use 'zero article' (-) with...

- 1) The names of most countries, cities and continents: *(-) Saudi Arabia, (-) Argentina, (-) Warsaw, (-) Beijing, (-) Europe, (-) Asia.*
- 2) Geographical areas in adjective phrases: *I live in (-) north-west Egypt, (-) eastern France.*
- 3) The names of single mountains and lakes: *(-) Mount Kilimanjaro, (-) Lake Titicaca.*
- 4) Exact days, months and times: *on (-) Friday, in (-) March, at (-) 7 o'clock.*
- 5) Some prepositional phrases of place: *at (-) home, at (-) work, in (-) town, in (-) bed, at (-) sea.*

To do

Try this activity. Have a look at the grammar notes if you get stuck.

Download

[Click here](#) to download the video (size: 28.2MB).

Next

How did you get on? Have you visited any of the places listed in the last activity? The BBC Learning English team is very familiar with the city we're going to look at next. Go to activity 2 to find out where it is and test what you've learnt so far about articles.

