

UNIT 69 Uncountable nouns (gold, music, advice etc.)

Nouns can be *countable* or *uncountable*. For *countable* nouns see Unit 70.

a) *Uncountable* nouns are, for example:

gold music blood excitement

Uncountable nouns are things we cannot count. They have no plural. You cannot say 'musics', 'bloods' or 'excitements'.

b) Before uncountable nouns you can say *the/some/any/much/this/his* etc.:

the music some gold much excitement his blood

But you cannot use *a/an* before an uncountable noun. So you cannot say 'a music', 'an excitement' or 'a blood'.

You can also use uncountable nouns alone, with no article (see Unit 74):

– This ring is made of gold. – Blood is red.

c) Many nouns can be used as countable or as uncountable nouns. Usually there is a difference in meaning. For example:

paper	I bought a paper. (= a newspaper – <i>countable</i>)
	I bought some paper. (= material for writing on – <i>uncountable</i>)
hair	There's a hair in my soup! (= one single hair – <i>countable</i>)
	She has beautiful hair. (= hair on her head – <i>uncountable</i>)
experience	We had many interesting experiences during our holiday. (= things that happened to us – <i>countable</i>)
	You need experience for this job. (= knowledge of something because you have done it before – <i>uncountable</i>)

d) Some nouns are usually uncountable in English but often countable in other languages. Here are the most important of these:

accommodation	behaviour	furniture	news	scenery	trouble
advice	bread	information	permission	traffic	weather
baggage	chaos	luggage	progress	travel	work

These nouns are *uncountable*, so (i) you cannot use *a/an* before them; and (ii) they cannot be plural:

- I'm looking for accommodation. (*not* 'an accommodation')
- I'm going to buy some bread. (*or* 'a loaf of bread'; *but not* 'a bread')
- Tom gave me some good advice. (*not* 'some good advices')
- Where are you going to put all your furniture? (*not* 'furnitures')

Remember that *news* is not plural:

- The news is very depressing today. (*not* 'The news are ...')

Do not use *travel* to mean *journey/trip*:

- We had a good journey. (*not* 'a good travel')

Note these pairs of countable (C) and uncountable (UNC) nouns:

- I'm looking for a job. (C) *but* I'm looking for work. (UNC)
- What a lovely view! (C) *but* What lovely scenery! (UNC)

UNIT 69 Exercises

69.1 Which of the underlined parts of these sentences is right?

Example: Sue was very helpful. She gave me some good advice / ~~advices~~. ('advice' is right)

- 1 Margaret has got very long black hair / hairs.
- 2 We had a very good weather / very good weather when we were on holiday.
- 3 Sorry I'm late. I had trouble / troubles with the car this morning.
- 4 I want something to read. I'm going to buy a / some paper.
- 5 I want to write some letters. I need a / some writing paper.
- 6 It's very difficult to find a work / job at the moment.
- 7 Bad news don't / doesn't make people happy.
- 8 Our travel / journey from London to Istanbul by train was very interesting.
- 9 The flat is empty. We haven't got any furnitures / furniture yet.
- 10 When the fire alarm rang, there was a complete chaos / complete chaos.
- 11 I had to buy a / some bread because I wanted to make some sandwiches.
- 12 After spending most of his life travelling round the world, he is now writing a book about his experience / experiences.

69.2 Now you have to complete these sentences using these words:

progress advice accommodation hair work experience
information paper permission

Example: We haven't got anywhere to live. We're looking for (some) accommodation.

- 1 I don't think Ann will get the job. She hasn't got
- 2 They'll tell you all you want to know. They'll give you plenty of
- 3 You'll easily recognise Alan. He's got green
- 4 Carla's English has improved. She has made
- 5 I want to write down your address. Have you got
- 6 If you want to leave early, you have to ask for
- 7 George is unemployed at the moment. He is looking for
- 8 I didn't know what to do. So I asked Jack for

69.3 In this exercise you have to write what you would say in these situations. Each time begin in the way shown and use one of the words in section d of this unit.

Example: Your friends have just arrived at the station. You can't see any suitcases or bags.
You say: Have you got any luggage

- 1 You go into the tourist office. You want to know about places to see in the town. You say: I'd like
- 2 The weather is beautiful. You say: What
- 3 You are a pupil at school. You want your teacher to advise you about which examinations to take. You say: Can you give me
- 4 You want to watch the news on television but you don't know what time it is on. You ask your friend: What time
- 5 You are standing at the top of a mountain. You can see a very long way. It is beautiful. You say: What

UNIT 70 Countable nouns with a/an and some

Nouns can be *countable* or *uncountable*. For *uncountable* nouns see Unit 69.

a) Countable nouns are, for example:

dog umbrella job suggestion girl

Countable nouns are things we can count. We can make them plural:

two dogs six jobs some girls many suggestions

b) Before singular countable nouns you can use a/an:

- That's a good suggestion.
- Do you need an umbrella?

You cannot use singular countable nouns alone (without a/the/my etc.):

- I'm looking for a job. (*not* 'I'm looking for job')
- Be careful of the dog. (*not* 'Be careful of dog')
- I've got a headache.
- Would you like a cigarette?

For a/an and the see Unit 71.

c) We often use a/an + noun when we say what something/someone is, or what something/someone is like:

- A dog is an animal.
- This is a really beautiful house.
- What a lovely dress!
- Tom is a very nice person.
- Jack has got a big nose.

Remember to use a/an for jobs:

- Tom's father is a doctor. (*not* 'Tom's father is doctor')
- I wouldn't like to be an English teacher.

In sentences like these, we use plural countable nouns alone (*not* with *some*):

- Tom's parents are very nice people.
- What awful shoes!
- Dogs are animals.
- Ann has got blue eyes.
- Are most of your friends students?

d) We also use *some* with plural countable nouns. *Some* = a number of / a few of (but we don't know or say exactly how many):

- I've seen some good films recently. (*not* 'I've seen good films')
- Some friends of mine are coming to stay at the week-end.

Do not use *some* when you are talking about things in general:

- I love bananas. (*not* 'some bananas')

Sometimes you can use *some* or leave it out:

- There are (some) eggs in the fridge if you're hungry.

For *some* and *any* see Unit 84.

e) You have to use *some* when you mean *some but not all / not many* etc.

- Some children learn very quickly. (but not all children)
- Some policemen in Britain carry guns but most of them don't.

For plural countable nouns see also Unit 74.

UNIT 70 Exercises

70.1 What are these things? Try and find out if you don't know.

Example: an ant? It's an insect. ants? bees? They are insects.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 a cauliflower? It's | 5 Earth? Mars? Venus? Jupiter? They |
| 2 a pigeon? It | |
| 3 a dandelion? | 6 the Rhine? the Nile? the Mississippi? |
| 4 a skyscraper? | |

And who were these people?

Example: Beethoven? He was a composer. Beethoven? Bach? They were composers.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 7 Pele? He was | 11 Kennedy? Johnson? Nixon? They |
| 8 Shakespeare? He | |
| 9 Einstein? | 12 Elvis Presley? John Lennon? |
| 10 Marilyn Monroe? | |

70.2 Now you have to read about someone's job and then write what his or her job is.

Example: Ron flies aeroplanes. He's a pilot.

- 1 Vera types letters etc. in an office. She is
- 2 Tim arranges people's holidays for them. He
- 3 Stella looks after patients in hospital. She
- 4 Mary teaches mathematics.
- 5 Martha directs films.
- 6 John translates what people are saying from one language into another so that they can understand each other.

70.3 Now you have to put in a/an or some or leave a space (without a word).

Examples: I've seen some good films recently. Have you got a headache?
Are most of your friends students?

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Have you got camera? | 11 You need visa to visit |
| 2 Would you like to be actor? | foreign countries, but not all of them. |
| 3 Bill's got big feet. | 12 I'm going shopping. I'm going to get |
| 4 Do you collect stamps? | new clothes. |
| 5 Tom always gives Ann flowers on her birthday. | 13 Jane is teacher. Her parents were |
| 6 Those are really nice trousers. Where did you get them? | teachers too. |
| 7 What beautiful garden! | 14 When we reached the city centre, shops were still open but most of them were already closed. |
| 8 What lovely children! | 15 Do you enjoy going to |
| 9 birds, for example the penguin, cannot fly. | concerts? |
| 10 Jack has got very long legs, so he's fast runner. | 16 When I was child, I used to be very shy. |

a) Study this example:

For lunch I had **a** sandwich and **an** apple. **The** sandwich wasn't very nice.

The speaker says 'a sandwich / an apple' because this is the first time he talks about them.

The speaker says 'the sandwich' because the listener now knows which sandwich he means - the sandwich he had for lunch.

Here are some more examples:

- There was a man talking to a woman outside my house. **The** man looked English but I think the woman was foreign.
- When we were on holiday, we stayed at a hotel. In the evenings, sometimes we had dinner at **the** hotel and sometimes in a restaurant.
- I saw a film last night. **The** film was about a soldier and a beautiful girl. **The** soldier was in love with the girl but **the** girl was in love with a teacher. So **the** soldier shot the teacher and married **the** girl.

b) We use a/an when the listener doesn't know which thing we mean. We use the when it is clear which thing we mean:

- Tom sat down on a chair. (we don't know which chair)
Tom sat down on **the** chair nearest the door. (we know which chair)
- Ann is looking for a job. (not a particular job)
Did Ann get the job she applied for? (a particular job)
- Have you got a car? (not a particular car)
I cleaned **the** car yesterday. (a particular car, my car)

c) We use **the** when it is clear in the situation which thing or person we mean. For example, in a room we talk about 'the light / the floor / the ceiling / the door / the carpet' etc. Study these examples:

- Can you turn off **the** light, please? (= the light in this room)
- Where is **the** toilet, please? (= the toilet in this building/house)
- **The** postman was late this morning. (= our usual postman)
- I took a taxi to the station. (= the station of that town)
- We got to **the** airport just in time for our flight.

Also: **the** police / **the** fire-brigade / **the** army.

We also say **the** bank, **the** post office:

- I must go to **the** bank to change some money and then I'm going to the post office to buy some stamps. (The speaker is usually thinking of a particular bank or post office.)

We also say **the** doctor, **the** dentist:

- John isn't very well. He has gone to **the** doctor. (= his doctor)

For **the** see also Units 72-7.

71.1 In this exercise you have to put in a/an or the.

Example: There was **a** man and **a** woman in the room. **The** man was English but **the** woman looked foreign. She was wearing **a** fur coat.

1. This morning I bought newspaper and magazine. newspaper is in my bag but I don't know where magazine is.
2. My parents have cat and dog. dog never bites cat but cat often scratches dog.
3. I saw accident this morning. car crashed into wall. driver of car was not hurt but car was quite badly damaged.
4. When you turn into Lipson Road, you will see three houses: red one, blue one and white one. I live in white one.
5. We live in old house in middle of the village. There is beautiful garden behind house. roof of house is in very bad condition.

71.2 Here again you have to put in a/an or the.

Examples: I'm looking for **a** job. Did Ann get **the** job she applied for?

1. Would you like apple?
2. Could you close door, please?
3. We live in small flat near centre of the city.
4. Have you finished with book I lent you last week?
5. We went out for meal last night. restaurant we went to was excellent.
6. Did police find person who stole your bicycle?
7. This is a nice house. Has it got garden?
8. It was warm and sunny, so we decided to sit in garden.
9. This morning I had boiled egg and toast for breakfast.
10. President of the United States is elected every four years.
11. As I was walking along the street, I saw £10 note on pavement.
12. I went into the shop and asked to speak to manager.
13. 'Have you got car?' 'No, I've never had car in my life.'
14. There's no need to buy any milk. milkman brings it every morning.

71.3 Now you have to complete these sentence using the + noun.

Example: It was getting dark in the room, so I turned on **the** light.

1. There were no chairs so we all had to sit on
2. As soon as I saw the fire, I called
3. We didn't have any stamps, so we had to go to
4. I had a toothache, so I made an appointment with
5. Ann had to catch a train, so I took her to
6. When we found that someone had broken into our house, we called
7. Bill wasn't feeling well, so he went to
8. We didn't have any money, so we had to go to
9. The plane was delayed, so we had to wait at for three hours.

For the difference between the and a/an see Unit 71.

- a) We say **the** ... when there is only one of something:
- What is **the** longest river in the world? (There is only one longest river in the world.)
 - We went to **the** most expensive restaurant in town.
 - **The** only television programme he watches is **the** news.
 - Paris is **the** capital of France.
 - Everybody left at **the** end of the meeting.
 - **The** earth goes round the sun. (Also: 'the moon / the world / the universe'.)

- b) We say: **the** sea **the** sky **the** ground **the** countryside / **the** country
- Would you rather live in a town or in **the** country?
 - Don't sit on **the** ground! It's wet.
 - We looked up at all the stars in **the** sky.

We say **go to sea / be at sea** (without **the**) when the meaning is **go/be on a voyage**:

- Ken is a seaman. He spends most of his life at **sea**.

but: I would love to live near the sea. (*not* 'near sea')

We say **space** (*not* 'the space') when we mean space in the universe:

- There are millions of stars in **space**. (*not* 'in the space')

but: He tried to park his car but **the** space wasn't big enough.

- c) Cinema theatre radio television

We say **the** cinema / **the** theatre:

- We went to **the** cinema last night.
- Do you often go to **the** theatre?

Note that when we say 'the cinema / the theatre', we do not necessarily mean one particular cinema or theatre.

We usually say **the** radio:

- We often listen to **the** radio. - I heard the news on **the** radio.

But we usually say **television** (without **the**):

- We often watch **television**.
- I watched the news on **television**.

but: Can you turn off the television, please? (= the television set)

- d) **Meals:** We do not normally use **the** with the names of meals:

- What time is **lunch**?
- We had **dinner** in a restaurant.
- What did you have for **breakfast**?
- Ann invited me to (*or* *for*) **dinner**.

But we say **a** meal:

- We had **a** meal in a restaurant.

We also say **a** when there is an adjective before **lunch/breakfast** etc.

- Thank you. That was a very nice lunch. (*not* 'that was very nice lunch')

For more information about **the** see Units 71, 73-7.

72.1 Answer these questions in the way shown.

Example: 'Was it a good film?' 'Yes, it was the best film I've ever seen.'

- 'Is it a big hotel?' 'Yes, it is in the city.'
- 'Is he a rich man?' 'Yes, he is I've ever met.'
- 'Was it a bad accident?' 'Yes, it was I've ever seen.'
- 'Is it a cheap restaurant?' 'Well, it is you will find.'
- 'It's hot today, isn't it?' 'Yes, it is day of the year.'

72.2 In this exercise you have to put in a/an or the. Sometimes you don't need either word - you leave it blank. (If necessary see Unit 71 for a/an and the.)

Examples: We went to most expensive restaurant in town.

Do you want to watch television this evening?

Last night we went out for meal in restaurant.

- I wrote my name at top of the page.
- moon goes round earth every 27 days.
- The Soviet Union was first country to send a man into space.
- Did you see the film on television or at cinema?
- After lunch, we went for a walk by sea.
- I'm not very hungry. I had big breakfast.
- John was only person I talked to at the party.
- Tim lives in small village in country.
- Peru is country in South America. capital is Lima.
- I never listen to radio. In fact I haven't got radio.
- It was beautiful day. sun shone brightly in sky.
- I've invited Tom to dinner next Wednesday.
- What is highest mountain in world?
- We don't go to theatre very much these days. In fact, in town where we live there isn't theatre.
- It was a long voyage. We were at sea for four weeks.
- I prefer swimming in sea to swimming in pools.
- Can you turn television down, please? It's a bit loud.

72.3 Here are some things Tom did yesterday. Write a sentence for each.

Morning: 8.00 breakfast 8.30-9.00 radio 9.0 walk/country

Afternoon: 1.00 lunch 2.30 cinema

Evening: 6.30 dinner 8.00-10.00 television

- At 8 o'clock he had breakfast
- From 8.30 until 9.00 he listened
- At 9.30 he went for a walk in
- At 1.00 he
- At 2.30
- At 6.30
- From

UNIT 73 The (2)

a) Study these sentences:

- The rose is my favourite flower.
- The giraffe is the tallest of all animals.

In these examples the ... doesn't mean one particular thing. The rose = roses in general, the giraffe = giraffes in general. We use **the** + a singular countable noun in this way to talk about a type of plant, animal etc. Note that you can also use a plural noun without the:

- Roses are my favourite flowers. (but not 'The roses ...' - see Unit 74)

We also use **the** + a singular countable noun when we talk about a type of machine, an invention etc. For example:

- When was the telephone invented?
- The bicycle is an excellent means of transport.

We also use **the** for musical instruments:

- Can you play the guitar? (not 'Can you play guitar?')
- The piano is my favourite instrument.

b) The + adjective

We use **the** with some adjectives (without a noun). The meaning is always plural. For example, **the rich** = rich people in general:

- Do you think the rich should pay more taxes?

We use **the** especially with these adjectives:

the rich	the old	the blind	the sick	the disabled	the injured
the poor	the young	the deaf	the dead	the unemployed	

- That man over there is collecting money for the blind.
- Why doesn't the government do more to help the unemployed?

These expressions are always plural. You cannot say 'a blind' or 'an unemployed'. You have to say 'a blind man', 'an unemployed woman' etc.

c) The + nationality words

You can use **the** with some nationality adjectives when you mean 'the people of that country'. For example:

- The French are famous for their food. (= the French people)
- Why do the English think they are so wonderful? (= the English people)

You can use **the** in this way with these nationality words:

the British	the Welsh	the Spanish	the Dutch
the English	the Irish	the French	the Swiss

Also with nationality words ending in -ese (the Japanese / the Chinese etc.)

With other nationalities you have to use a plural noun ending in -s:
(the) Russians (the) Italians (the) Arabs (the) Scots (the) Turks

For the see also Units 71, 72 and 74-7.

UNIT 73 Exercises

73.1 Answer these questions about yourself and your favourite things. Use a dictionary if you don't know the English words you need.

Example: What is your favourite flower? the rose

- 1 What is your favourite tree?
- 2 Which bird do you like most?
- 3 What is your favourite car?
- 4 What is your favourite musical instrument?

73.2 Now you have to make sentences from the words in brackets.

Example: (Mary / play / piano very well) Many plays the piano very well.

- 1 (Jack / play / guitar very badly) Jack plays
- 2 (Jill / play / violin in an orchestra)
- 3 (I'd like / learn / play / piano)
- 4 (you / play / guitar?)

73.3 This time you have to complete these sentences about animals. Choose one of the words in brackets. Use a dictionary if you don't know these words.

Example: The giraffe is the tallest of all animals. (elephant/lion/giraffe)

- 1 is the fastest of all animals. (tiger/cheetah/elephant)
- 2 is a mammal but it lives in the sea. (octopus/elephant/whale)
- 3 is the largest living bird. (eagle/sparrow/ostrich)

73.4 Complete these sentences using the with these adjectives:

rich sick blind poor injured unemployed dead
Example: Braille is a system of reading and writing by touch for the blind.

- 1 Many people were killed in the plane crash. The bodies of were taken away. were taken to hospital.
- 2 Every English child knows the story of Robin Hood. It is said that he robbed and gave the money to
- 3 Those people with jobs have enough money but life is not so easy for
- 4 Agnes has been a nurse all her life. She has spent her life caring for

73.5 What do you call the people of these countries?

Examples: England? the English Russia? the Russians

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Britain? | 6 France? | 10 Switzerland? |
| 2 Ireland? | 7 Japan? | 11 America (the US)? |
| 3 Wales? | 8 Germany? | 12 the Netherlands? |
| 4 Scotland? | 9 China? | 13 and your country? |
| 5 Spain? | | |

- a) We don't use the before a noun when we mean something in general:
- I love **flowers**. (not 'the flowers')
(flowers = flowers in general, not a particular group of flowers)
 - I'm afraid of **dogs**.
 - Doctors are paid more than **teachers**.
 - Crime is a problem in most big cities. (not 'the crime')
 - Life has changed a lot since I was a boy. (not 'the life')
 - I prefer **classical music** to **pop music**. (not 'the classical/pop music')
 - Do you like **English food** / **French cheese** / **Swiss chocolate**? (not 'the ...')
 - My favourite subject at school was **history/physics/English**.
 - I like **football/athletics/skiing/chess**.
 - Do you collect **stamps**?
- We say most **people** / **most dogs** etc. (not 'the most ...'):
- Most **people** like George. (not 'the most people' - see also Unit 82)

- b) We say the ... when we mean something in particular:
- I like your garden. **The flowers** are beautiful. (not 'Flowers are ...')
(the flowers = the flowers in your garden, not flowers in general)
 - **Children** learn a lot from playing. (= children in general)
- but: We took **the children** to the zoo. (= a particular group of children, perhaps the speaker's own children)
- Salt is used to flavour **food**.
- but: Can you pass **the salt**, please? (= the salt on the table)
- I often listen to **music**.
- but: The film wasn't very good but I liked **the music**. (= the music in the film)
- All cars have **wheels**.
- but: All **the students** in the class like their teacher.
- Are **English people** friendly? (= English people in general)
- but: Are **the English people** you know friendly? (= only the English people you know, not English people in general)

- c) The difference between 'something in general' and 'something in particular' is not always very clear. Study these sentences:
- I like working with **people**. (= people in general)
 - I like working with **people who are lively**. (not all people, but people who are lively is still a general idea)
- but: I like **the people** I work with. (= a particular group of people)
- Do you like **coffee**? (= coffee in general)
 - Do you like **strong black coffee**? (not all coffee, but strong black coffee is still a general idea)
- but: Did you like **the coffee** we had with our meal last night? (= particular coffee)

74.1 In this exercise you have to write whether you like or dislike something. Begin your sentences with: I like ... / I don't like ... / I love ... / I hate ... / I don't mind ... / I'm (not) interested in ... / I have no opinion about ...

Example: (very hot weather) I don't like very hot weather.

- 1 (football)
- 2 (small children)
- 3 (cats)
- 4 (modern art)
- 5 (horror films)

74.2 What do you think about these things? Write a sentence about each one. Begin with: In my opinion ... / I think ... / I don't think ... / I don't agree with ... / I'm against ... / I'm in favour of ...

Example: (divorce) I think divorce is sometimes necessary.

- 1 (terrorism)
- 2 (smoking)
- 3 (examinations)
- 4 (capital punishment)
- 5 (nuclear power)

74.3 In this exercise you have to choose the correct form, with or without the.

Examples: I'm afraid of dogs / ~~the dogs~~ Can you pass salt / ~~the salt~~, please?

- 1 Apples / ~~The apples~~ are good for you.
- 2 Look at apples / ~~the apples~~ on that tree! They're very large.
- 3 Women / ~~The women~~ are often better teachers than men / ~~the men~~.
- 4 In Britain coffee / ~~the coffee~~ is more expensive than tea / ~~the tea~~.
- 5 We had a very nice meal in that restaurant. Cheese / ~~The cheese~~ was especially good.
- 6 Most people / ~~The most people~~ still believe that marriage / ~~the marriage~~ and family life / ~~the family life~~ are the basis of our society.
- 7 They got married but marriage / ~~the marriage~~ wasn't successful.
- 8 I know someone who wrote a book about life / ~~the life~~ of Gandhi.
- 9 Life / ~~The life~~ would be very difficult without electricity / ~~the electricity~~.
- 10 Skiing / ~~the skiing~~ is my favourite sport but I also like swimming / ~~the swimming~~.
- 11 Second World War / ~~The Second World War~~ ended in 1945.
- 12 Do you know people / ~~the people~~ who live next door?
- 13 Are you interested in art / ~~the art~~ or architecture / ~~the architecture~~?
- 14 All books / ~~All the books~~ on the top shelf belong to me.
- 15 Don't stay in that hotel. Beds / ~~The beds~~ are very uncomfortable.
- 16 Two of the biggest problems facing our society are crime / ~~the crime~~ and unemployment / ~~the unemployment~~.
- 17 I hate violence / ~~the violence~~.

a) Study this example situation with hospital.



Jack had an accident a few days ago.
He had to go to hospital.
He is still in hospital now.
Jill went to the hospital to visit him.
She is at the hospital now.

Someone goes to hospital or is in hospital if he is ill or injured. We are not necessarily thinking of a particular hospital; we are thinking of the idea of hospital.

But Jill is not ill or injured. She is not 'in hospital'. She went there as a visitor. We say 'Jill went to the hospital / Jill is at the hospital' because we mean a particular hospital, the one where Jack is.

b) Prison school university college church

We say a criminal goes to prison (not 'to the prison'); a child goes to school; a student goes to university/college. We do not use the when we are thinking of the idea of these places and what they are used for:

- After I leave school, I want to go to university. (as a pupil/student)
- Why aren't the children at school today? (as pupils)
- Mrs Kelly goes to church every Sunday. (for a religious service)
- Ken's brother is in prison for robbery. (he is a prisoner)

We say 'be in prison', but usually 'be at school/university/college'. 'In church' and 'at church' are both possible.

Now study these sentences with the:

- Mr Kelly went to the school to meet his daughter's teacher. (He didn't go there as a pupil.)
- Excuse me, where is the university, please? (a particular building)
- The workmen went to the church to repair the roof. (They didn't go to a religious service.)
- Ken went to the prison to visit his brother. (He went as a visitor, not as a prisoner; he went to the prison where his brother was.)

c) bed work home

We say: 'go to bed / be in bed' etc. (not 'the bed');

- It's time to go to bed now. - Is Tom still in bed?

'Go to work / be at work / start work / finish work' etc. (not 'the work');

- Why isn't Ann at work today? - What time do you finish work?

'Go home / come home / be at home / stay at home' etc. (not 'the home');

- Come on! Let's go home. - Will you be at home tomorrow?

There is no preposition with go/come/get/arrive home. (not 'to home')

75.1 Complete these sentences using the words in this unit.

Example: Two people were injured in the accident and were taken to hospital.

- 1 I was very tired and it was very late, so I went
- 2 Fred robbed a bank but was caught by the police. He was sent
- 3 Tom doesn't often go out in the evenings. He usually stays
- 4 Jill isn't a religious person. She never goes
- 5 In Britain, children from the age of five have to go
- 6 Children sometimes get into trouble if they are late for
- 7 There is a lot of traffic in the morning when everybody is going
- 8 Mrs Grimes has just had an operation. She is still
- 9 When David leaves school, he wants to study economics
- 10 Bill never gets up before 9 o'clock. It's 8.30 now, so he is still

75.2 Write short answers to these questions.

Example: If you wanted to meet your children's teachers, where would you go?
To the school.

- 1 A friend of yours is in hospital. Where would you go to visit him?
- 2 A friend of yours is in prison. Where would you go to visit him?
- 3 A friend of yours is at church. If you wanted to meet him immediately after the service, where would you go?

75.3 This time you have to choose the correct form, with or without the.

Example: Ken's brother is in prison / the prison for robbery. ('prison' is correct)

- 1 Some children hate school / the school.
- 2 What time do your children finish school / the school?
- 3 After leaving school / the school, Nora worked as a cleaner in hospital / at the hospital.
- 4 My brother is very ill in hospital / the hospital.
- 5 All over the world, people are in prison / the prison because of their political beliefs.
- 6 The other day the fire-brigade had to go to prison / the prison to put out a fire.
- 7 On the way to London we passed through a small village with an old church. We stopped to visit church / the church. It was a beautiful building.
- 8 John's mother is a regular churchgoer. She goes to church / the church every Sunday. John himself doesn't go to church / the church.
- 9 Every term parents are invited to school / the school to meet the teachers.
- 10 After work / the work, Ann usually goes home / to home.
- 11 Tom left university / the university without doing his examinations.
- 12 When Ann was ill, we all went to hospital / the hospital to visit her.
- 13 I like to read in bed / the bed before going to sleep.
- 14 What time do you have to start work / the work tomorrow morning?
- 15 How many people go to university / the university in your country?

UNIT 76 Geographical names with and without the

- a) **Continents:** We do not say **the** with the names of continents:
Africa (*not* 'the Africa') Asia Europe South America
- b) **Countries and states:** We do not usually say **the** with the names of countries and states:
France (*not* 'the France') Japan West Germany Nigeria Texas
But we say **the** with names which include words like 'republic', 'union', 'kingdom', 'states':
the German Federal Republic the Soviet Union the United States (of America)
(usually called 'West Germany') the United Kingdom
the Republic of Ireland the United Arab Emirates
We also use **the** with *plural* names:
the Netherlands the Philippines
- c) **Cities:** We do not use **the** with the names of cities/towns/villages:
Cairo (*not* 'the Cairo') New York Glasgow Madrid
Exception: The Hague (in the Netherlands)
- d) **Islands:** Island groups usually have *plural* names with **the**:
the Bahamas the Canaries / the Canary Islands the British Isles
Individual islands usually have singular names without **the**:
Corfu Sicily Bermuda Easter Island
- e) **Regions:** We say:
the Middle East the Far East
the north of England the south of Spain the west of Canada
(*but*: northern England / southern Spain / western Canada – without **the**)
- f) **Mountains:** Mountain ranges usually have *plural* names with **the**:
the Rocky Mountains / the Rockies the Andes the Alps
But individual mountains usually have names without **the**:
(Mount) Everest Ben Nevis (in Scotland) (Mount) Etna
- g) **Lakes:** Lakes usually have names without **the**:
Lake Superior Lake Constance
- h) Names of *oceans/seas/rivers/canals* have **the**:
the Atlantic (Ocean) the Indian Ocean
the Mediterranean (Sea) the Red Sea the (English) Channel
the Nile the Amazon the Thames the Rhine
the Suez Canal the Panama Canal
Note: On maps **the** is not usually included in the name.

UNIT 76 Exercises

76.1 Read these sentences carefully. Some are correct, but some need **the** (perhaps more than once). Correct the sentences where necessary.
Examples: Everest was first climbed in 1953. **RIGHT**
Milan is in north of Italy. **WRONG** – the north of Italy

1. Last year we visited Canada and United States.
2. Africa is much larger than Europe.
3. South of England is warmer than north.
4. We went to Spain for our holidays and swam in Mediterranean.
5. Tom has visited most countries in western Europe.
6. A friend of mine used to work as a reporter in Middle East.
7. Next year we are going skiing in Swiss Alps.
8. Malta has been a republic since 1974.
9. Nile is longest river in Africa.
10. United Kingdom consists of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

76.2 Here are some geography questions. You have to choose the right answer. Sometimes you need **the**, sometimes not. Try and find out the answers if you don't know them.
Example: What is the longest river in the world? (Amazon / Rhine / Nile) the Amazon.

1. Where is Bolivia? (Africa / South America / North America)
2. Where is Ethiopia? (Asia / South America / Africa)
3. Of which country is Manila the capital? (Indonesia / Philippines / Japan)
4. Of which country is Stockholm the capital?
(Norway / Denmark / Sweden)
5. Which country lies between Mexico and Canada?
(Venezuela / El Salvador / United States)
6. Which is the largest country in the world?
(United States / China / Soviet Union)
7. Which is the largest continent? (Africa / South America / Asia)
8. What is the name of the mountain range in the west of North America?
(Rocky Mountains / Andes / Alps)
9. What is the name of the ocean between America and Asia?
(Atlantic / Pacific / Indian Ocean)
10. What is the name of the ocean between Africa and Australia?
(Atlantic / Pacific / Indian Ocean)
11. What is the name of the sea between England and France?
(Mediterranean Sea / English Channel / French Sea)
12. What is the name of the sea between Africa and Europe?
(Black Sea / Red Sea / Mediterranean Sea)
13. What is the name of the sea between Britain and Norway?
(Norwegian Sea / English Channel / North Sea)
14. Which river flows through Vienna, Budapest and Belgrade?
(Rhine / Danube / Volga)
15. What joins the Atlantic and Pacific oceans?
(Suez Canal / Panama Canal)

UNIT 77 Names of streets, buildings etc. with and without the

a) We do not normally use the with names of streets/roads/squares etc.:

Regent Street (not 'the ...')	Fifth Avenue	Piccadilly Circus
Cromwell Road	Broadway	Red Square

There are some exceptions (for example: 'The Mall' in London).

b) Many names (for example, of airports or universities) are two words:

Kennedy Airport Cambridge University

The first word is usually the name of a person ('Kennedy') or a place ('Cambridge'). We do not usually say the with names like these:

Victoria Station (not 'the ...')	Edinburgh Castle	Hyde Park
Westminster Abbey	Buckingham Palace	London Zoo
Canterbury Cathedral		

But we say 'the White House', 'the Royal Palace' because 'white' and 'royal' are not names. This is only a general rule. There are exceptions. See section c for hotels etc. and section e for names with of.

c) We usually say the before the names of these places:

hotels	the Hilton (Hotel), the Station Hotel
restaurants/pubs	the Bombay Restaurant, the Red Lion (pub)
theatres	the Palace Theatre, the National Theatre
cinemas	the ABC, the Odeon, the Classic
museums/galleries	the British Museum, the Tate Gallery

Again there are exceptions. See also section d of this unit.

d) Many shops, restaurants, hotels, banks etc. are named after the people who started them. These names end in s or 's. We do not use the with these names:

shops	Selfridges (not 'the Selfridges'), Harrods
restaurants	Maxim's, Macdonalds, Luigi's Italian Restaurant
hotels	Claridge's
banks	Barclays Bank, Lloyds Bank

Churches are usually named after saints (St = saint):
St John's Church St Paul's Cathedral

e) We say the before the names of places, buildings etc. with of:

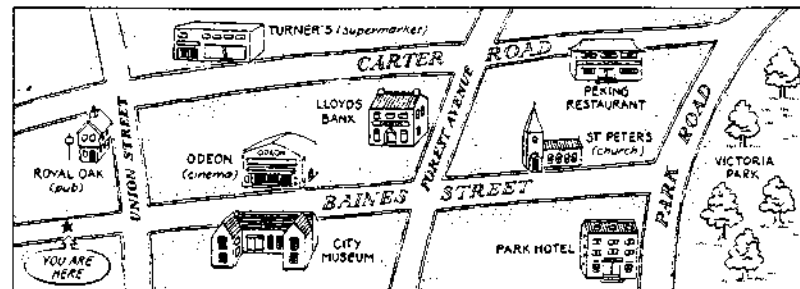
the Bank of England (not 'Bank of England')	the Great Wall of China
the Houses of Parliament	the Museum of Modern Art
the Tower of London	

f) We say the with the names of newspapers:

the Times the Washington Post the Evening Standard

UNIT 77 Exercises

77.1 Use the map to answer the questions in the way shown. Write the name of the place and the street it is in. On maps we don't normally use the; in your sentences, use the if necessary.



Example: 'Is there a cinema near here?' 'Yes, the Odeon in Baines Street.'

- 'Is there a supermarket near here?' 'Yes, in
- 'Is there a hotel near here?' 'Yes, in
- 'Is there a bank near here?' 'Yes, in
- 'Is there a restaurant near here?' 'Yes, in
- 'Is there a church near here?' 'Yes,
- 'Is there a pub near here?' 'Yes,
- 'Is there a museum near here?' 'Yes,
- 'Is there a park near here?' 'Yes, at the end of

77.2 In this exercise you have to choose the correct form, with or without the.

Example: When we were in London, we visited National Gallery / the National Gallery.

- The British Prime Minister lives in Downing Street / the Downing Street.
- One of the nicest parks in London is St James's Park / the St James's Park, which is very near Buckingham Palace / the Buckingham Palace.
- Frank is a student at Liverpool University / the Liverpool University.
- Mr Jenkins reads Daily Telegraph / the Daily Telegraph but his wife reads Times / the Times.
- If you want to buy some new clothes, the shop I would recommend is Harrison's / the Harrison's.
- We flew from London to Orly Airport / the Orly Airport in Paris.
- Tate Gallery / The Tate Gallery is the main modern art museum in London.
- My local pub is called Prince of Wales / the Prince of Wales.
- Have you ever visited Tower of London / the Tower of London?
- 'Which hotel are you staying at?' 'At Sheraton / the Sheraton.'
- Diana and George got married in St Matthew's Church / the St Matthew's Church.
- You must visit Science Museum / the Science Museum when you are in London.
- Did you see the film at Classic / the Classic (cinema)?

UNIT 78 Singular or plural?

a) We use some nouns only in the plural. For example:
trousers jeans shorts pyjamas tights scissors glasses/spectacles
You can also use a pair of ... with these words:
- I need some new trousers. or I need a new pair of trousers.

b) We do not often use the plural of person ('persons'). Instead we use people:
- He is a nice person. - They are nice people.

c) These nouns end in -s but they are not usually plural:
mathematics physics economics athletics gymnastics news
- Athletics is my favourite sport.
- What time is the news on television? (See also Unit 69d.)
These words end in -s and can be singular or plural:

means	a means of transport	many means of transport
series	a television series	two television series
species	a species of bird	200 species of bird

d) Some singular nouns are often used with a plural verb. For example:
government staff team family audience committee
We often think of these things as a number of people ('they'), not as one thing ('it'). So we often use a plural verb:

- The government (= they) want to reduce taxes.
- The staff (= they) aren't happy with their new working conditions.

A singular verb ('The government wants ...') is also possible.

Note that we normally use a plural verb with the names of sports teams:
- Scotland are playing France in a football match next week.

We always use a plural verb with the police:
- The police have arrested Tom.
- Are the police well-paid?

e) Sometimes we use a plural noun with a singular verb. We do this when we talk about a sum of money, a period of time, a distance etc.:
- Five thousand pounds (= it) was stolen in the robbery. (not 'were stolen')
- Three years (= it) is a long time to be without a job. (not 'are')

f) We say 'a holiday of three weeks' but 'a three-week holiday':
- I've got a three-week holiday in July. (not 'a three-weeks holiday')

Here, three-week is used as an adjective before 'holiday'. When we use 'three-weeks' as an adjective, it loses the s. So we say:

a ten-pound note (not 'pounds')	two 14-year-old girls
a four-week English course	a six-hour journey

You can also say 'I've got three weeks' holiday'. See Unit 79d.

UNIT 78 Exercises

78.1 In this exercise you have to complete the sentences with words from sections a, b and c. Sometimes you need a or some.

Examples: She can't see very well. She needs glasses (or spectacles).
This plant is a very rare species.

- 1 Footballers don't wear trousers when they play. They wear
- 2 The bicycle is of transport.
- 3 The bicycle and the car are of transport.
- 4 I want to cut this piece of material. I need
- 5 Ann is going to write of articles for her local newspaper.
- 6 There are a lot of American television on British television.
- 7 While we were out walking, we saw 25 different of bird.
- 8 We need at least four to play this game.

78.2 This time you have to choose the correct form of the verb, singular or plural. Sometimes either a singular or a plural verb is possible.

Example: Gymnastics is / ~~are~~ my favourite sport. ('is' is correct)

- 1 The trousers you bought for me doesn't / don't fit me.
- 2 Physics was / were my best subject at school.
- 3 Fortunately the news wasn't / weren't as bad as we had expected.
- 4 The police wants / want to interview Fred about a robbery.
- 5 Three days isn't / aren't long enough for a good holiday.
- 6 Where does / do your family live?
- 7 England has / have lost all their football matches this season.
- 8 Does / Do the police know about the stolen money?
- 9 Can I borrow your scissors? Mine isn't / aren't sharp enough.
- 10 I'm going to take a taxi. Six miles is / are too far for me to walk.

78.3 In this exercise you have to use the structure in section f.

Examples: Our holiday lasted three weeks. It was a three-week holiday.
The girls were 14 years old. They were 14-year-old girls.

- 1 The woman was 27. She was a
- 2 The flight lasted three hours. It was a
- 3 The strike lasted four days. It was a
- 4 The book has 200 pages. It is a
- 5 The boys were ten years old. They were
- 6 The television series has ten parts. It is
- 7 The bottle holds two litres. It is
- 8 Each of the tickets cost ten pounds. They were
- 9 The building has ten storeys (= floors). It is
- 10 This bag of potatoes weighs five kilos. It is
- 11 We walked for five miles. It was