

1 Review *a/an* in Unit 19.2 You use *the* with a singular noun when the person you are speaking to knows which person or thing you are talking about:

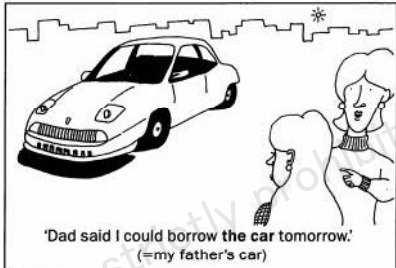
I had a book and a magazine with me. I read **the book** first. (=the book I had with me)

He bought a new shirt and a tie. **The tie** was very expensive. (=the tie he bought)

I spoke to **the headmaster** at school this morning. (=the headmaster of my school)



'Is there life on **the moon**?' (=there is only one moon)



'Dad said I could borrow **the car** tomorrow.'  
(=my father's car)

I left the fruit in **the kitchen**. (=the kitchen in our house)

**The president** is coming next week. (=the president of our country)

She went into her room and locked **the door**. (=the door of her room)

Who is **the woman** next to Mary?

She was talking to **the man** who lives next door.

You use *the* with a plural noun when the person you are speaking to knows which group of people or things you are talking about:

Where are **the children**? (=our children)

He bought two shirts and a tie. **The shirts** were quite cheap. (=the shirts he bought)

Have you washed **the cups and saucers**. (=the cups and saucers we have been using)

3 You use *the* when you are talking about a system or service:

I spoke to her on **the telephone** yesterday. I heard it on **the radio**.

4 You can use *the* with a singular noun when you want to make a general statement about something:

**The tiger** is a very dangerous animal. My favourite flower is **the rose**.

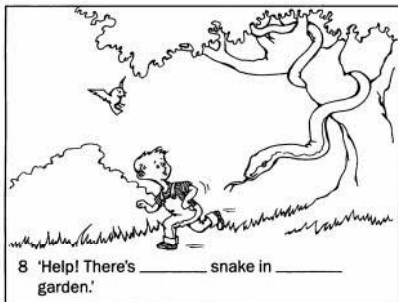
**WARNING:** You do not use *the* when you use a plural noun to make a general statement, or when you make a general statement about an uncount noun:

**Tigers** are dangerous animals. **Roses** are my favourite flowers.

**Rice** is very expensive in England. **Platinum** is more valuable than gold.

**A Complete these sentences. Put a/an in one blank and the in the other:**

- I was speaking to a friend on the telephone.
- A headmaster is moving to a new school.
- My sister is taking some children to a party.
- He ate three sandwiches and a large cake. The cake was filled with cream.
- I heard a great programme on the radio this morning.
- The first man on the moon was an American.
- There's some hot water in a kettle. Can you make a cup of tea?

**B Fill the blanks using a, an or the:**

Police have been looking for (1) \_\_\_\_\_ eight-year old boy who tried to hold up (2) \_\_\_\_\_ sweet shop with (3) \_\_\_\_\_ gun, writes David Ward.

The boy threw (4) \_\_\_\_\_ carrier bag at (5) \_\_\_\_\_ shopkeeper and ordered her to fill it up. 'I don't know whether he wanted me to fill (6) \_\_\_\_\_ bag with sweets or money,' said (7) \_\_\_\_\_ shopkeeper. 'I am not sure if (8) \_\_\_\_\_ gun was real or not,

but I don't think it was (9) \_\_\_\_\_ toy gun.' The boy went into the shop and bought (10) \_\_\_\_\_ bar of chocolate for 25p. 'He gave me (11) \_\_\_\_\_ 50p piece and as I gave him his change (12) \_\_\_\_\_ man came in. (13) \_\_\_\_\_ boy waited until (14) \_\_\_\_\_ man went. Then he threw (15) \_\_\_\_\_ plastic carrier bag at me, pointed (16) \_\_\_\_\_ gun at me and said: 'Put everything in.'

