

the 

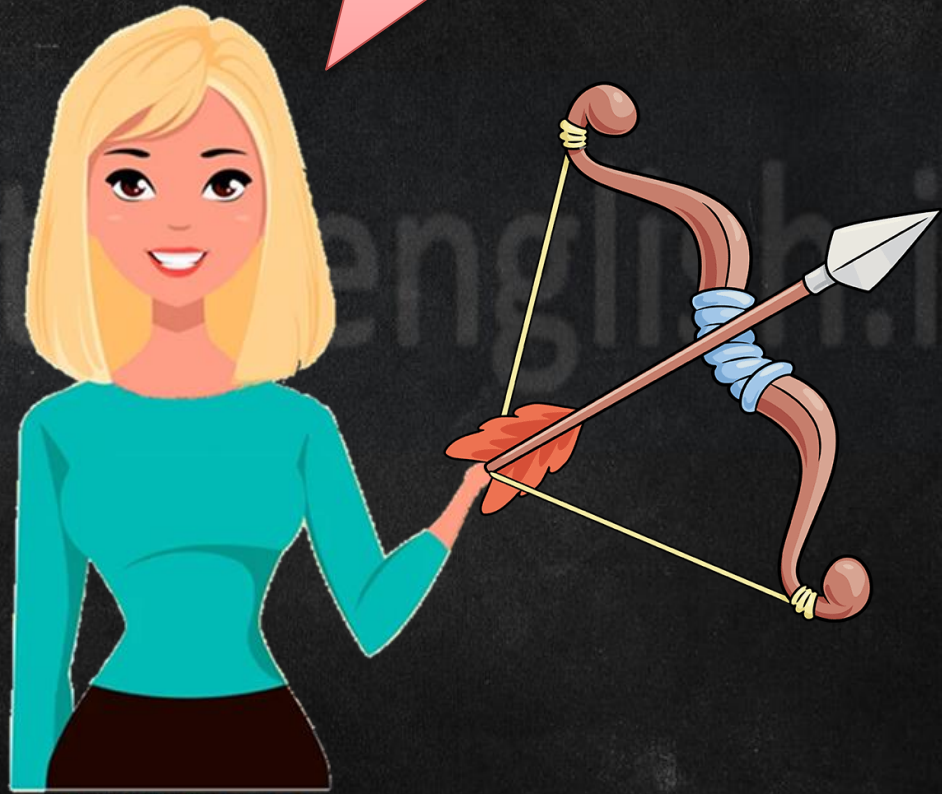
One definite
article in
English:
«**THE**»...

...but lots of
problems, as the
usage of «**THE**»
is less simple
than it seems.



«**THE**» is like a
signpost or an
arrow.

We use **THE**
before a noun
which is used in a
limited sense.



UNLIMITED SENSE

- I like cakes
(which cakes? *All* cakes , cakes in *general*)



LIMITED SENSE

- I LIKE THE CAKES MY MOTHER BAKES



UNLIMITED SENSE

- **Cats chase mice**
(which cats? *All* cats , cats in *general*)



LIMITED SENSE

- **The cats in our street** are too well fed to chase mice
- (which cats? The cats in our street.)



UNLIMITED SENSE

People do their Christmas shopping in December

(which people? *Everyone in general*)

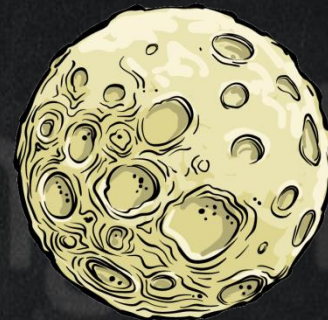


LIMITED SENSE

- **THE people who live next door** make a lot of noise
(which people? *The people next door*)



The noun may be **limited** by the fact that there is only **ONE** object or person like this in the universe!



That isn't **THE moon**, it's **THE sun**!



The noun may be **limited** because the person who is speaking and the one who is listening obviously intend what object or person is intended!



I'm just going to **THE** station

Pass me **THE** teapot!

Don't sit on **THE** cat!

I have never seen **THE** Queen



No «THE» before abstract nouns: «**honesty** and **truth** are great virtues in a statesman».

BUT

THE honesty **of** the speaker and **THE** truth **of** his statement convinced the audience!



We rarely use **THE** before the names of singular countries (exceptions: The Lebanon, The Argentine, the Sudan).

We **NEVER** use **THE** before a possessive

We **NEVER** use **THE** before titles such as:
Dr., Colonel, General etc. .



We use **THE** before:

1. Name of rivers
2. Chains of mountains
3. Superlative adjectives
4. An adjective to indicate a group of people (the rich)
5. A singular noun to indicate a species, race, class etc. (the Cat)
6. Plural nations



Explain why **THE** is used or not used in the following sentences:

1. Children have always interested me
2. Young children have always interested me
3. The children I saw running about the streets made me aware of the terrible poverty there was in that country
4. In England tea is drunk more than coffee
5. Aristocrats drink only China tea
6. Where is the tea?
7. History was a subject I could not stand
8. Roman history has never interested me much
9. The history of Rome can teach us a great deal
10. I detest modern art but I detest the early impressionists



And now, let's do some exercises at the following links:



[tps://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises/nouns_articles/article_the2.htm](https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises/nouns_articles/article_the2.htm)
https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises/nouns_articles/article_the3.htm
https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises/nouns_articles/article_the4.htm
https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises/nouns_articles/article_the.htm



the 

END