

USES OF ARTICLE “THE”

‘The’ is a definite article which is used in the following situations.

‘The’ is used when a singular noun represents a whole class.

The tiger is a magnificent animal. (Here the singular noun tiger is used to refer to all the tigers.)

The peacock is India’s nation bird.

But if the plural of the noun is used than the article usually gets omitted.

Tigers are carnivorous animals.

Cars are expensive.

When the words ‘woman’ and ‘man’ are used to represent a whole class ‘the’ is omitted.

‘The’ is used before a noun that has been mentioned earlier.

I bought *a car*. *The car* I bought is very expensive.

He built *a house*. *The house* he built is very big.

‘The’ is used before referring to a particular class.

The rich boy came to school in an expensive car.

The poor man went to sleep hungry.

‘The’ is used when we refer to holy or classical books

The Ramayana; The Bible; The Iliad; The Koran etc.

In case the name of the author is mentioned with the book ‘the’ is omitted.

For example; Valmiki’s Ramayana

‘The’ is used before names of newspapers and journals

The Times of India

The Wall Street Journal

‘The’ is used before an adjective that represents a quality

For example: the blue of the sky after the rain, the happiness of a child’s heart

The superlative form of an adjective

For example: the worst, the best, the greatest, the tallest, the oldest etc.

‘The’ is used while referring to geographical lines and geographical proper nouns

For example: The longitude, the latitude, the equator, the Indian Ocean, the Thar Desert, the Everest etc.

‘The’ is used before a unit of measure

Milk is sold by *the litre* but vegetables are sold by *the kilo*.

‘The’ is used when referring to well-known builds or works of art, organisations

For example: The Taj Mahal, the Mona Lisa, the United Nations etc.

‘The’ is used before certain common nouns

For example: The airport, the church, the railway station etc.

‘The’ is omitted:

Proper nouns, Plural nouns, Abstract Nouns, Uncountable nouns, languages and academic subjects, names of parts of the body, the names of games, and words like church, hospital etc. when used to refer to an institution.