

A There are some nouns that we can use without the when we are talking about the normal purpose of an institution.
 School starts at nine o'clock. *The guilty men were sent to prison.*
 Here school means 'school activities', and people are sent to prison for committing a crime.
 But when we talk about a specific building, we use *the*.
The school is in the centre of the village.
Mel is delivered to the prison every morning.
 Here the school means the school building, and the prison means the prison building.

B Apart from words for institutions, there are a number of other nouns used in a similar way.
I'm usually in bed by eleven. *The bed felt very uncomfortable.*
In bed means 'sleeping/ resting in a bed', but *the bed* means a specific bed.

C We use an article if there is a word or phrase modifying the noun.
The guilty men were sent to a high-security prison.
In doing a course at the new college.
 When the noun is part of a name, there is usually no article. > 163
The guilty men were sent to Parkhurst Prison.

D Here are some expressions with nouns of this type.

Without article	With article
bed	stay in bed, go to bed (to sleep), put a child to bed, get out of bed
church	visit the church, the Church of England, the Catholic Church (to a service)
class	be in class (= in a lesson), stand at the front of the class, arrive class (at pupils)
college	be at/in college (as a student), drop out of college, leave college
court	appear in court, go to court, take someone to court
home	Without article: stay at home, go home, walk home With article: the home of a famous film star, at/ the home for old people
hospital	In hospital (as a patient), taken to hospital, leave hospital, go into hospital
jail	be in jail (as a prisoner), go to jail, come out of jail
prison	be in prison (as a prisoner), go to prison, come out of prison
school	be in school (as a pupil), go to school, start/leave school, ready for school
sea	be at sea (sailing), go to sea (as a sailor), go/travel by sea
town	meet in town, go to town
university	be at university (as a student), go to university
work	be at work, go to work, stop work, your place of work, out of work, looking for work

161 Articles in phrases of time

A Introduction
 In a phrase of time we often use a special noun without an article
 In winter on Monday

But we put *alan* or *the* before an adjective + noun.
 A very cold winter
 We also use an article if there is a phrase or clause after the noun.
 The winter before the holiday
 The winter when we had all that snow

In B-H there are some examples with various kinds of time phrase.

B Years

The company was formed in 1981.
 The war lasted from 1812 to 1815.

In the year 1981

C Seasons and months

If winter comes, can spring be far behind?
 It's nice here in (the) summer.
 June is my favourite month.
 The elections are in March.

the winter of 2002
 a marvellous summer

D Special times of the year

I don't enjoy Christmas much.
 American eat turkey at Thanksgiving.

It was a Christmas I'll never forget.

E Days of the week

I must finish this report by Monday.
 (Monday of next week)

I'm leaving on the Wednesday before Easter. That's the second Wednesday in April.

Our visitors are coming on Friday.
 (Friday of this week)

This happened on a Friday in July.

We usually go out on Saturday / on Saturdays (= every Saturday)

We usually go out on a Saturday, Friday 12 May would be OK but I'm busy on the Thursday (= the Thursday of that week)
 I'll see you at the weekend.

F Parts of the day and night

At midday it was very hot.
 They reached the camp at sunset.
 We'll be home before dark.
 At night, by day/night

It was a wonderful sunset.
 I couldn't see in the dark.
 Including the day/ the night
 the morning/ the afternoon/ the evening

In phrases of time we normally use these nouns on their own: *dark, daybreak, sunrise, midday, noon, dusk, sunset, twilight, dark, nightfall, midnight*. But we use *alan* or *the* when we talk about the physical aspect, e.g. not being able to see in the dark, rather than about the time.

G Meals

Breakfast is from seven o'clock.
 I had a sandwich for lunch.

The breakfast we had at the hotel wasn't very nice.
 They all had a delicious lunch.
 The meal was perfect.

H Phrases with last and next

These flats were built last year.
 We're having a party next Saturday.

The flats had been built the previous year/ the year before.
 They were having a party the following Saturday.

Compare these phrases.

Seen from the present
 The landing tomorrow.
 The match is next week.

Seen from the past
 I was leaving (the) next day.
 The match was the following week.

162 Names

A Most names of people and places are without the.

Daniel Mrs Parsons Texas South Australia

Some place names have the, especially names consisting of more than one word, but there are others which do not have the. For example, we say *the black sea* but *Lake Superior*. Two things affect whether a name has the or not: the kind of place it is (e.g. a sea or a lake), and the grammatical structure of the name. We often use *the* in these structures.

Adjective: the Duke of Edinburgh
 Plural form: the Johnsons/ the Johnson family
 Possessive: Cleopatra's Needle

For more details about place names and the, > 163.

A noun such as *doctor, professor, or president* can be part of a person's name.

NOTE
 I saw Doctor Fry.
 He is not part of a name, we use an article in the usual way.
 I saw the doctor.

B We can sometimes use an article with a person's name.

Laura always lives in our office. (= a person called Laura)
 A Mr Miller I know, but I don't see you. (= someone called Mr Wilson)
 The Laura I know is dark hair. (= the person called Laura)
 That's a bookshop, isn't it? (= a picture by Roddery)

Here are some examples of *alan* and *the* with place names which normally have no article.

There's a Plymouth in the US (= a place called Plymouth)
 The Plymouth of today is very different from the Plymouth I once knew.
 (Plymouth at different times)
 Amsterdam is the Venice of the north. (= the place like Venice)
 Stressed the Old before a name can mean the famous ...
 I know a Joan Collins, but she isn't the Joan Collins.
 We can also stress a /el to contrast with the.
 I know a Joan Collins, but she isn't the Joan Collins.

163 Place names and the

For some general points about place names and the, > 162A. Here the different types of place name are dealt with in more detail.

A Continents, countries, and states

Most continents, islands, countries, states, and countries are without the.
 a trip to Europe
 on Bermuda
 a holiday in France
 the Netherlands
 New South Wales

Exceptions are names ending with
 republic or kingdom.
 the UK
 Plural names also have the.
 the Netherlands
 the US

B Regions

When the name of a continent or country (e.g. America) is modified by another word (e.g. Central), we do not use the.

Central America in North Wales
 South-East Asia In New England
 the South the Mid-West
 the Midlands the Riviera

C Mountains

Most mountains and hills are without the.

A very few mountains have the.
 climbing (Mount) Kilimanjaro
 up (Mount) Everest
 the Matterhorn the Eiger
 Mountain ranges and hills
 across the Alps
 In the Cotswolds

D Lakes, rivers, and seas

Lakes are without the.
 the Great Lakes Ontario
 the Lake Ontario
 on the (River) Amazon
 the (Missouri) River
 building the Panama Canal
 in the North Sea
 in the Pacific (Ocean)

E Cities and towns

Most cities, towns, suburbs, and villages are without the.
 In Sydney
 Kingswood a suburb of Bristol
 at Netley Island

Exceptions are The Hague and The Bronx.

F Roads and streets

Most roads, streets, and paths are without the.
 off Station Road
 in Baker Street
 Madison Avenue
 along Broadway
 in Central Park
 Kew Gardens

Some names with adjectives have the.
 the High Street
 the Botanical Gardens
 We use the in this structure.
 the Bath Road (= the road to Bath)
 We can also use the with some main roads in cities.
 along the Edgware Road

We use the with by-passes and motorways.
 The York by-pass
 the M6 (motorway)

Other exceptions to the general rule are The Avenue, The Mall, and The Strand.

G Bridges

Some bridges are without the.
 across Magdalen Bridge
 Westminster Bridge
 near Tower Bridge
 This includes the major London bridges.
 But there are also bridges with the.
 the Sydney Harbour Bridge
 the Hungerford Bridge
 (over the Humber)
 This is used in American English.
 the Queensboro Bridge

H Stations, churches, schools, etc

Most transport facilities, churches, schools, and other important buildings, as well as palaces and houses are without the.
 to Euston (Station)
 Heathrow (Airport)
 St Paul's (Cathedral)
 Rugby (School)
 at Essex (University)
 in South General Hospital
 Leazes Town Hall
 the Old Buckingham Palace
 at Clarence House

We use the when there is an of-phrase.
 the Church of the Holy Trinity
 the University of Essex
 We generally use the when there is an adjective or noun modifier.
 the Royal High School
 the Old Town Hall
 the White House

I Theatres, hotels, etc

With theatres, cinemas, hotels, museums, galleries, and centres, we usually use the except with a possessive form.

St Martin's (Theatre)
 Charlotte's (Hotel)
 When the first word of the phrase is a place name (e.g. York), we can sometimes use the phrase without the.
 In York Museum
 Some US names with center are without the.
 near Rockefeller Center

J Shops and restaurants

Most shops are without the.
 shopping at Harrod's
 in Next
 A restaurant can be without the if it has a possessive form.
 the (Cheerful) Restaurant
 Normally we use the.
 the Privet Garden (Theatre)
 I saw it at the Oldham (Cinema)
 the Dorset (Hotel)
 the Science Museum
 the National Gallery
 shopping in the Metro Centre
 We use the with building.
 the Chrysler Building

We use the with shops and restaurants when there is an adjective or noun modifier.
 the Kitchin Shop
 at the Old Bakehouse (Restaurant)
 Most pubs have the.
 at the Red Lion (Inn)