

87 Prison, school, bed, etc

A Prison or the prison?

Compare these situations.



*This man is in **prison**. He went to **prison** two years ago.*

We do not use **the** when we are talking about being **in prison** as a prisoner.



*The young woman is in **the prison**. She has gone to **the prison** to visit her father. We use **the** when we mean the prison as a specific building. The young woman is **in the prison** as a visitor.*

Here are some examples with other buildings.

School is over at half past three. (= school activities) *Vicky is at **college**.* (She is a student there.) *David is in **hospital**.* (He is a patient.) *Melanie is going to **church**.* (She is going to a service.)

***The school** is a mile from here.*
(= the school building)
*The meeting was at **the college**.*

*Melanie waited in **the hospital** for news.*

*We wanted to look round **the church**, but it was locked.*

We can also use **jail** and **university** in this way. But we do not leave out **the** before other nouns for buildings, e.g. **the cinema, the factory, the house, the library, the office, the pub, the shop, the station.**

B Bed, home, etc

Here are some phrases with other nouns.

bed: *in bed, go to bed* (to rest or sleep)
home: *at home, go home, come home, leave home*
sea: *at sea* (= sailing)
go to sea (as a sailor)
town: *in town, go into town, leave town*
work: *at work, go to work, leave work*

But sit on **the bed**, make **the bed**
But in **the house**, to **the house**, in **the home**
But on **the sea**, by **the sea**, at/to **the seaside**,
on/to the coast
But **the town centre**, **the city**, **the village**
But **the office**, **the factory**

87 Exercises

1 Prison or the prison? (A)

Put in the words in brackets. Decide if you need *the*.

- The four members of the gang were sent to *prison* (prison). Their wives drove together to *the prison* (prison) every week to visit their husbands.
- 1 Not many people go to (church) regularly nowadays. I saw some tourists walking to (church) last week, but they only wanted to take photos of it.
- 2 A group of people came out of (cinema), crossed the road and went into (pub).
- 3 When my father was ill and had to go to (hospital), my sister went with him in the ambulance. She's a doctor, and she works at (hospital).
- 4 Mark has always known what he wanted to do in life. After leaving (school), he took a course in business studies at (college).

2 Prison, school, etc (A-B)

Complete this paragraph from a magazine article about Melissa Livingstone. Put in the words with or without *the*.

Today Melissa Livingstone is a popular actress and star of the TV soap opera 'Round the Corner'. But as a child she was very unhappy. She didn't do well at (>) *school* (school), and she never went to (1) (college). Her greatest pleasure was going to (2) (cinema). Her family lived in an unattractive town and their home was next to (3) (station). Melissa's father, Tom, was a sailor, and he spent months at (4) (sea). He was hardly ever at (5) (home) and when he was, he didn't do very much. Sometimes he spent all day in (6) (bed). Melissa's mother, Susan, had to get up at five o'clock every day to go to (7) (work). When Tom lost his job he stole a gold cup from (8) (church) Susan used to go to. He had to go to (9) (prison) for a year. Melissa's mother was horrified at the shame he had brought on the family.

3 Prison, school, etc (A-B)

Complete the sentences. Use *in*, *at* or *to* and these words:

bed, church, college, factory, home, hospital, library, prison, shop, town, work

Decide if you need *the*.

- ? We'll eat out tonight. I'll meet you *in town* later.
- ? This sweater was cheap. I bought it *at the shop* by the railway station.
- 1 The weather was awful. We stayed all weekend.
- 2 Melanie had an early night last night. She was at ten.
- 3 Emma's friend has just had a baby. Emma is going to visit her.
- 4 Vicky's parents are religious. They go every Sunday.
- 5 Laura doesn't like her job. She just goes to earn some money.
- 6 I've read these books. I'm taking them back
- 7 The man who did the robbery is no longer He was let out last month.
- 8 Jessica is a student. She's
- 9 It's very quiet when they've turned all the machines off.

88 On Friday, for lunch, etc

Introduction

Henry: *Don't forget we're meeting on **Friday for lunch**.*
Sarah: *Of course I haven't forgotten.
But remind me where we're eating.*
Henry: *The Riverside Restaurant. You've been there before.
Claire was with us. It was **the Friday** before she
went to Australia. We had **a good lunch**.*



Phrases of time are usually without **a/an** or **the**.

*We're meeting on **Friday for lunch**.*

But we use **a/an** or **the** if there is a phrase or clause after **Friday, lunch**, etc.

*It was **the Friday** before she went to Australia.*
We normally use **a/an** or **the** if there is an adjective.
*We had **a good lunch**.*

B Years, seasons and months

*I was born in **1974**.
We play cricket in **summer/in the summer**.
Winter always depresses me.
I start the course in **September**.*

*That was **the year** I was born. It was **the winter** of 1995 when things started to go wrong for the company.*

C Special times

*We go away at **Christmas**.
Easter is early this year.
I'll be home for **Thanksgiving**.*

*We had **a wonderful Christmas**.
I started work here **the Easter** before last.*

D Days of the week

*Yes, **Thursday** will be convenient.
I'll see you on **Tuesday evening**.*

*The storm was on **the Thursday** of that week.
We went surfing at **the weekend**.*

E Parts of the day and night

*I can't sleep at **night**.
I prefer to travel by **day/by night**.
I must get to bed before **midnight**.*

*We were on the beach at **sunset**. I
hope to get there before **dark**.*

*It's warmer in/during **the day**. Someone got up in/during **the night**. We're meeting in **the morning**. They arrived at the hotel in **the evening**. It was **a beautiful sunset**. I couldn't see in **the dark**.*

F Meals

*I'll see you at **breakfast**.
We have **supper** at about eight.
I'm going out after **lunch**.*

*We had **a quick breakfast**.
The supper David cooked was excellent.
The meal was very nice.
We'll need **an evening meal**.*

88 Exercises

1 On Friday, etc (B-E)

Complete the conversations. Put in the words and use *a/an* or *the* if you need to.

- Rachel: Is it the pop festival on *Friday* (Friday)? Vicky: I think it's *the Friday* (Friday) after that.
- 1 Henry: Will you be in America for..... (Thanksgiving)?
Claire: Oh no. That's in..... (November), isn't it?
- 2 Nick: Are you doing anything at (weekend)?
Tom: Well, I'm going to the match on (Saturday), of course.
- 3 Ilona: Does it snow here at (Christmas)?
Emma: Not often. We haven't had (white Christmas) for years.
- 4 Nick: How long have you lived here?
Harriet: We came here in (summer)
of (1997).
- 5 Laura: I'd like to look round the castle in (afternoon).
Trevor: Well, it's just a ruin. The building dates from (year) 900.
- 6 Mark: I like driving at (night) when the roads are quiet.
Trevor: Oh, I don't like driving in (dark). I'd much rather travel
during (day).

2 A/an or the with meals (F)

Laura is talking about the food she and Trevor had on holiday.

Put in the words and use *a/an* or *the* if you need to.

(►) *The meals* (meals) we had weren't very good. We had (1)..... (breakfast) in the hotel, and that wasn't too bad. We usually went out for (2)..... (lunch) because (3)..... (lunch) they served in the hotel was always the same. And (4)..... (dinner) we had at the hotel on our first evening was pretty awful, so we tried a few restaurants. On our last evening we had (5)..... (marvellous meal) in a Chinese restaurant. I wish we'd discovered the place a bit sooner.

3 On Friday, for lunch, etc (A-F)

Put in the words. Decide if you need to use *the*.

- Claire: Hello, Henry. Come in.
Henry: Oh, sorry. You're having (►) *lunch* (lunch).
Claire: No, this is (1)..... (breakfast). I had a late night.
It was long after (2)..... (midnight) when I got in.
Henry: Someone told me you're going away after (3)..... (Christmas).
Claire: Yes, I'm going to the Seychelles on (4)..... (Wednesday).
Henry: What a life you lead, Claire. What time do you leave for the airport?
Claire: Oh, in (5)..... (morning) some time. About ten.
It's cheaper to fly at (6)..... (night), but I decided
it would be easier during (7)..... (day).
Henry: I can drive you to the airport. I'm usually free on (8)..... (Wednesday)
mornings. I'd like to see you off.
Claire: That's sweet of you Henry, but I can take a taxi.
Henry: I'll just check in my diary that it isn't (9)..... (Wednesday) of our next
board meeting. No, it's OK. I can do it. And when will you be back?
Claire: At the beginning of (10)..... (February). The second, I think.

89 Quite a, such a, what a, etc

A Introduction

After **quite**, **such** and **what** we can use a phrase with **a/an**, e.g. *a game*. There is often an adjective as well, e.g. *such a good team*.

B Very, quite, rather, etc

A/an goes before **very**, **fairly**, **really**, etc.

It's a very old house. It's a fairly long walk.

I made a really stupid mistake.

But **a/an** usually goes after **quite**.

It's quite an old house. There was quite a crowd.

A/an can go either before or after **rather**.

It's a rather old house, OR It's rather an old house.

We can also use **very**, **quite**, **rather**, etc + adjective + plural or uncountable noun.

They're very old houses. This is quite nice coffee.



C So and such a

SO

The structure is **be + so + adjective**.

The test was so easy. NOT ~~It was a so easy test.~~ The hill was so steep.

It's so inconvenient without a car.

The weather is so nice.

Tom's jokes are so awful.

Note these sentences with **long**, **far**, **many/much** and **a lot of**.

It's so long since I saw you.

Why are we so far from the beach?

There were so many people.

You waste so much time.

We can use this structure with **so ... (that)** or **such ... (that)**.

Emma was so angry with Matthew

(that) she threw a plate at him.

I was so unlucky you wouldn't believe it.

SUCH A/AN

The structure is **such + a/an (+ adjective) + noun**.

It was such an easy test. NOT ~~it was a such easy test.~~ It was such a steep hill. It's such a nuisance without a car.

We can also use **such** + an adjective + a plural or uncountable noun.

We're having such nice weather.

Tom tells such awful jokes.

It's such a long time since I saw you.

It's such a long way to the beach.

There were such a lot of people.

You waste such a lot of time.

Vicky got such a nice welcome (that) she almost cried.

I had such bad luck you wouldn't believe it.

D What a

In an exclamation we can use **what a/an** with a singular noun and **what** with a plural or uncountable noun **I**

+ singular noun: *What a goal! What a good idea!*

+ plural noun: *What lovely flowers! What nice shoes you've got on!*

+ uncountable noun: *What rubbish! What fun we had!*

89 Exercises

Very, quite, rather, so, etc (B-C)

What do you say in these situations?

- ? You're telling someone about the show you saw. It was quite good.
You should go and see it. It's *quite a good show*.
- ? You are describing Harriet to someone who doesn't know her. She is fairly tall.
Well, Harriet is *a fairly tall woman*.
- 1 You're talking about the Savoy Hotel, which is very grand.
Yes, I know the Savoy. It's.....
- 2 You are talking about your journey. It was quite tiring.
I travelled a long way. It was.....
- 3 You are telling someone about Claire's flat. It's really big.
I've been to Claire's place. It's
- 4 You are telling a friend about your meal with Tom. It was quite nice.
We went to that new restaurant. We had.....

2 So and such (C)

Complete the conversation. Put in *so* or *such*.

Sarah: Sorry I'm (►) *so* late. We had (►) *such* a lot to do at work.

Mark: You shouldn't do (1) much.

Sarah: The boss gets in (2)..... a panic about things. She makes (3)..... a big fuss.

Mark: Well, you shouldn't be (4)willing to work (5)..... long hours. No wonder you're (6)..... tired. You'll make yourself ill, you know.

3 So... that and such ... that (C)

Match the sentences and combine them using *so* or *such*.

- ? Sarah was late home. All the tickets sold out.
- ? Mike hadn't cooked for a long time. He wouldn't speak to anyone.
- 1 The piano was heavy. He'd almost forgotten how to.
- 2 Tom was annoyed about United losing. It kept all the neighbours awake.
- 3 The band was a big attraction. Mark had already gone to bed.
- 4 Vicky had a lot of work to do. Mike and Harriet couldn't move it.
- 5 The party made a lot of noise. She was sure she'd never finish it.
- ? *Sarah was so late home that Mark had already gone to bed.*
- ? *Mike hadn't cooked for such a long time that he'd almost forgotten how to.*

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

4 What (D)

Put in *what* or *what a*.

► Come into the sitting-room. ~ Thank you. Oh, *what a* nice room!

- 1 Vicky believes in ghosts. ~ Oh, nonsense she talks!
- 2 Let's go for a midnight swim. ~ suggestion!
- 3 I think about you all the time, Emma. ~ lies you tell me, Matthew.

90 Place names and the

A Introduction

Man: *Could you tell me where **the Classic Cinema** is, please?* Rachel:
*Yes, it's in **Brook Street**. Go along here and take the second left.*

Whether a name has **the** depends on the kind of place it is - for example, a street (*Brook **Street***) or a cinema (***the Classic Cinema***), a lake (***Lake Victoria***) or a sea (***the North Sea***).

Most place names do not have **the**.

Europe California Melbourne
*Brook **Street Lake Victoria***

Some place names have **the** - for example, a name with the word **cinema** or **sea**.

the Classic Cinema the North Sea

Whether we use **the** can also depend on the structure of the name.

We do not use **the** with a possessive (*s).

*at **Matilda's Restaurant***

We often use **the** in structures with of, with an adjective and with plural names.

With of: ***the Avenue of the Americas***

With an adjective: ***the White House***

With a plural: ***the Bahamas***

B Continents, countries, islands, states and counties

Most are without **the**.

*travelling through **Africa** a*
*holiday in **Portugal** on*
Jersey** to **Rhode Island
*from **Florida** in **Sussex***

Words like **republic** and **kingdom** have **the**.

the Irish Republic
the United Kingdom (the UK)

Plural names also have **the**.

the Netherlands the USA
the Canary Islands

C Regions

Regions ending with the name of a continent or country are without **the**.

Central Asia South Wales
Western Australia

Most other regions have **the**.

the West the Middle East
the Riviera the Midlands

Phrases with of have **the**.

the South of France

D Hills and mountains

Most are without **the**.

*She climbed (**Mount Everest**).*
*down **North Hill***

Hill ranges and mountain ranges have **the**.

*skiing in **the Alps** over **the Rockies***

E Lakes, oceans, seas, rivers and canals

Only lakes are without **the**.

*near **Lake Michigan***
*beside **Coniston Water***

Seas, oceans, rivers and canals have **the**.

the Mediterranean (Sea) across the
Atlantic (Ocean) the (River) Thames
the Suez Canal

F Cities, towns, suburbs and villages

Most are without **the**.

Harehills is a suburb of Leeds.
Houston is west of New Orleans.
We live in North London.

Exceptions are *The Hague* and *The Bronx*.
Note also *the West End (of London)*.

G Roads, streets, squares and parks

Most are without **the**.

along Morden Road
in Church Street on
Fifth Avenue near
Berkeley Square
through Central Park

There are a few exceptions.

the High Street *The Avenue*
The Strand *The Mall* Main roads
and numbered roads have **the**.
the Bath road (= the road to Bath)
the A5 *the M6 (motorway)*

Bridges

Most are without **the**.

over Tower Bridge
on Brooklyn Bridge

But there are many exceptions. *across the*
Golden Gate Bridge ***the Severn Bridge***
(= the bridge over the River Severn)

Stations and airports; important buildings

We do not use **the** with most stations and airports;
with religious, educational and official buildings or
with palaces and houses.

to Waterloo (Station)
at Orly (Airport)
near St Mary's Church
Merton College *Norwich Museum*
Lambeth Palace *Ashdown House*

Exceptions are names with of or with a noun
(*science*) or adjective (*open*).

at the University of York
in the Palace of Westminster
the Science Museum
the Open University
past the White House

Theatres, cinemas, hotels, galleries and centres

A possessive form ('s) is without **the**.

St Martin's (Theatre)
at Durrant's (Hotel) In the US, names with
center are without **the**.
near Lincoln Center

But usually theatres, cinemas, etc have **the**.

at the Globe (Theatre) *the Plaza*
(Cinema) *outside the Dorchester*
(Hotel) *in the Tate (Gallery)* *the Brunei*
shopping centre

K Shops and restaurants

Most shops and restaurants are without **the**.

shopping at Bloomingdale's at Matilda's
Restaurant

Names with a noun (*body, studio*) often have **the**.

at the Body Shop *The Studio Cafe*

90 Exercises

1 Place names and the (B-F)

How much do you know about geography? Put in these names: *Andes, Brussels, Irish Republic, Italy, Lake Michigan, River Nile, North, Pennsylvania, Tasmania, United Kingdom, West Indies* Decide if you need *the*.

? Harrisburg is the capital of *Pennsylvania*.

? Dublin is in *the Irish Republic*.

1 Chicago lies on the shore of.....

2 Sicily is a part of.....

3 are a mountain range in South America.

4 is England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

5 is an island to the south of Australia.

6 Jamaica is an island in.....

7 flows through Egypt.

8 is the capital of Belgium.

9 Manchester is in..... of England.

2 Roads, buildings, etc (E-J)

Complete these sentences from a guide to London. Put in the words and decide if you need *the*.

? The train to Paris leaves from *Waterloo Station* (Waterloo Station).

? *The National Theatre* (National Theatre) is south of the river.

1 You can take a trip by boat along..... (Thames).

2 The Serpentine is a lake in (Hyde Park).

3 You can get to (Heathrow Airport) by underground.

4 Nelson's Column is in (Trafalgar Square).

5 Walk a little way along (Westminster Bridge).

6 From there you get a view of (Houses of Parliament).

7 The Queen lives at (Buckingham Palace).

8 Earl's Court is in (West London).

9 (M1 motorway) goes north from London.

10 (Ritz) is a very elegant hotel.

3 Roads, buildings, etc (F-K)

Complete the conversation. Put in the words and decide if you need *the*.

Sarah: We've just been to (>) *the States* (States) -to (1)..... (New York).

Claire: Oh, really? I was there at Christmas. Were you on holiday?

Sarah: Yes, and we really needed a break. It was wonderful. We saw

(2) (Statue of Liberty), and we walked in

(3) (Central Park). We did all the sights. We spent a da] m

(4) (Metropolitan Museum of Art).

And we walked along (5) (Broadway) and around

(6) (Macy's) department store.

Claire: Where did you stay?

Sarah: In a small hotel near (7) (Washington Square), not far from

(8) (New York University).

Claire: Last time I was there I stayed at (9)..... (Paramount). It's a nice hotel I close to (10) (Broadway).

4 Roads, buildings, etc (I-J)

A woman is asking Trevor the way. Put in the words and decide if you need *the*.

Woman: Excuse me, can you tell me the way to (►) *Millthorpe Station* (Millthorpe Station)?

Trevor: Yes, go along here and turn *left* by (1) (Little Theatre) *opposite* a building called (2) (Kingston House).

The road is (3) (Wood Lane).

Go along there, straight across (4) (High Street),

past (5) (Royal Hotel), and you'll see the station in front of you.

Woman: Thank you very much.

5 Roads, buildings, etc (G-K)

Look at the addresses and write the sentences.

Useful addresses for visitors to Seaport

Seaport Bus Station, Queen's Road	King Edward College, College Road
Grand Theatre, George Street	St John's Church, South Street
Odeon Cinema, The Avenue	Webster's department store, High Street
Clarendon Art Gallery, Newton Lane	Bristol Hotel, Westville Way

► Seaport Bus Station *is in Queen's Road.*

- 1 The Grand Theatre.....
- 2
- 3
4.
5.
- 6
- 7

6 Place names and the (B-K)

Write the headlines of the articles in this month's edition of 'Holiday', a travel magazine.

? walk / along / Princes Street *A walk along Princes Street*

? holiday / in / Bahamas *A holiday in the Bahamas*

1 day / at / Blenheim Palace

2 train journey / in / North Wales

3 tour / of / White House

4 beach / on / Riviera

5 shopping trip / to / Harrods

6 small town / in / France

7 trip / across / Severn Bridge

8 walk / around / Lake Windermere

9 visit / to / Tower Bridge

10 journey / across / Rockies

11 look / around / National Gallery

12 boat trip / along / Oxford Canal

TEST 15 A/an and the (Units 83-90)

Test15A

Complete the story about the theft of a river barge. Put in *a, an, one* or *the*.

This is (►) a true story about (1) man who chose (2) worst possible time for his crime. It happened in London in (3) summer of 1972. (4) man stole a barge on (5) River Thames (in case you don't know, (6) barge is a river boat used for carrying goods). (7) owner of (8) barge soon discovered that it was missing and immediately informed (9) police so that they could look for it. Normally (10) river is quite (11) busy place, and it would be difficult to find what you were looking for. On this day, however, there was (12) dock strike, and so there was only (13) barge on (14) river. (15) thief was quickly found and arrested.

Test 15B

Decide which word or words are correct.

► I think that's *an awful* thing to say. a)

a awful b) an awful c) awful

1 Judy goes to on the bus.

a) work b) a work c) the work

2 I don't know what to do. It's problem.

a) quite difficult b) a quite difficult c) quite a difficult

3 is my favourite sport.

a) Golf b) A golf c) The golf

4 starts at nine o'clock.

a) School b) A school c) The school.

5 We had time at the disco yesterday.

a) really nice b) a really nice c) really a nice

6 Nigel opened a drawer and took out

a) photos b) a photos c) some photos

7 Did you learn to play

a) violin b) a violin c) the violin

8 We can finish the rest of the bread for

a) breakfast b) a breakfast c) the breakfast

9 While I was in hospital, they gave me

a) X-ray b) a X-ray c) an X-ray

10 I might listen to

a) radio b) radios c) the radio

11 We need to protect from pollution.

a) environment b) some environment c) the environment

12 Why do they always play music?

a) so terrible b) such terrible c) such a terrible

Test15C

Read the story about a silly mistake and decide if a word needs to go in the space.

If a word is missing, write the word. If no word is missing, write X.

This is also (►) a true story. It shows how (►) X plans can sometimes go wrong and how

(1) people can make silly mistakes. This too happened quite (2) long time ago

-in (3) 1979, in fact. The scene was (4) old people's home in

(5) small town in (6) north of England called (7) Otley. The

owners of the home wanted to put (8) fence around it to make it more private. The work began soon after (9) Christmas when (10) workmen arrived in (11) lorry with planks of wood which they put up around the building. 'It was (12) very nice fence,' said (13) of the old people. But there was (14) problem. The workmen forgot to leave a gap for the lorry to drive out through. They had to come back the next day to knock down part of (15) fence.' (16) a silly mistake!' said another resident. 'It was (17) funny we had to laugh. In fact it was (18) most fun we've had for a long time.'

Test 15 D

Some of these sentences are correct, and some have a word which should not be there. If the sentence is correct, put a tick (✓). If it is incorrect, cross the unnecessary word out of the sentence and write it in the space.

- | | | |
|----|--|------------|
| ? | The space capsule came down in the Pacific. | ✓ |
| ? | My new job starts in the April. | <i>the</i> |
| 1 | I was so tired I went to bed at nine. | |
| 2 | We had a very good lunch in the company canteen. | |
| 3 | The life just isn't fair sometimes. | |
| 4 | What the clever children you have! | |
| 5 | We went out and bought some pictures. | |
| 6 | Tessa was still working at the midnight. | |
| 7 | I drive past the hospital every morning. | |
| 8 | A one boy was much taller than all the others. | |
| 9 | It costs such a lot of money, you know. | |
| 10 | I'll meet you outside the National Gallery. | |
| 11 | Have you any idea who invented the fridge? | |

Test 15E

Complete the conversation. Put in the words and decide if you need *fl*, *an*, *some* or *the*.

Martin: I think we ought to book (►) *a holiday* (holiday). Where shall we go? Anna: What about (►) *Scotland* (Scotland)?

I think Edinburgh is (1) (beautiful city). I love going there.

Martin: (2) (weather) might not be very good.

We went there at (3) (Easter), and it was freezing, remember.

Anna: We could have a walk along (4) (Princes Street) and up to the castle. And I wanted to go to (5) (Royal Scottish Museum), but we never found time. Martin:

Can't we go somewhere different?

Anna: We could spend some time in (6) (Highlands), I suppose.

Martin: When I go on holiday, I want to do something more relaxing than climbing (7) (mountains). And I find it pretty boring.

Anna: How can you say such (8) (thing)?

Martin: Actually, I'd prefer somewhere warmer and by (9) (sea). I think (10) (Corfu) would be nice.

We might get (11) (sunshine) there. I just want to lie on a beach.

Anna: Martin, you know I'm not at all keen on (12) (beach holidays).