



Ex.1 Complete the sentences using *the* following. Use *the* where necessary.

breakfast   cinema   diner   Gate 21   question 8   sea   gate

- 1 'Are you going out this evening?' Yes, after \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 There was no wind, so \_\_\_\_\_ was very calm.
- 3 The test wasn't too difficult, but I couldn't answer \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 'I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ tonight.' Are you? What *are* you going to see?'
- 5 I didn't have time for \_\_\_\_\_ this morning because I was in a hurry i
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ is open. I must have forgotten to shut it.
- 7 (*airport announcement*) Flight AB123 to Rome is now boarding at \_\_\_\_\_.

We use **the** when we mean specific things or people.

Compare:

*In general (without **the**)*

- Children** learn from playing.  
(= children in general)
- I couldn't live without **music**.
- All **cars** have wheels.
- Sugar** isn't very good for you.
- English people** drink a lot of tea.  
(= English people in general)

*Specific people or things (with **the**)*

- We took **the children** to the zoo.  
(= a specific group, perhaps the speaker's children)
- The film wasn't very good, but I liked **the music**. (= the music in the film)
- All **the cars** in this car park belong to people who work here.
- Can you pass **the sugar**, please?  
(= the sugar on the table)
- The English people** I know drink a lot of tea. (= only the English people I know, not English people in general)

The difference between 'something in general' and 'something specific' is not always very clear.

Compare:

*In general (without **the**)*

- I like working with **people**.  
(= people in general)
- I like working with **people who are lively**. (not all people, but 'people who are lively' is still a general idea)
- Do you like **coffee**?  
(= coffee in general)
- Do you like **strong black coffee**?  
(not all coffee, but 'strong black coffee' is still a general idea)

*Specific people or things (with **the**)*

- I like **the people** I work with.  
(= a specific group of people)
- Did you like **the coffee** we had after dinner last night? (= specific coffee)

Ex.2 Choose the correct form, with or without **the**.

1 I'm afraid of dogs/ the dogs.

2 Can you pass salt/ the salt please?

3 Apples /The apples are good for you.

4 Look at apples / the apples on that tree! They're very big.

5 Women/The women live longer than men/the men.

6 I don't drink tea / the tea. I don't like it.

7 We had a very good meal. Vegetables / The vegetables were especially good.

8 Life / The life is strange sometimes. Some very strange things happen.

9 I like skiing / the skiing but I'm not very good at it.

10 Who are people / the people in this photograph?

11 What makes people / the people violent? What causes aggression/the aggression?

12 All books / All the books on the top shelf belong to me.

- 13 Don't stay in that hotel. It's very noisy and beds/the beds are very uncomfortable.
- 14 A pacifist is somebody who is against war/ the war.
- In First World War / The First World War lasted from 1914 until 1918.
- 16 I'd like to go to Egypt and see Pyramids/the Pyramids.
- 17 Someone gave me a book about history / the history of modern art / the modern art.
- 18 Ron and Brenda got married, but marriage / the marriage didn't last very long.
- 19 Most people / The most people believe that marriage / the marriage and family life / the family life are the basis of society/the society.

Ex. 3 Put in the where necessary. If you don't need the, leave the space empty.

- 1 I haven't been to \_\_\_\_ cinema for ages.
- 2 I lay down on \_\_\_\_ ground and looked up at \_\_\_\_ sky.
- 3 Sarah spends most of her free rime searching \_\_\_\_ television.  
television was on, but nobody was watching it.
- 5 Lisa and I arrived at \_\_\_\_ same time.
- 6 Have you had. \_\_\_\_ dinner yet?
- 7 You'll find \_\_\_\_ iinformation you need at \_\_\_\_top \_\_\_\_ page 15.
- 8 What's \_\_\_\_ capital city of Canada?
- 9 When was \_\_\_\_ telephone invented?
- 10 Can you play \_\_\_\_ musical instrument?
- 11 Jill plays \_\_\_\_ violin in an orchestra.
- 12 There was \_\_\_\_ piano in the corner of the room.
- 13 Can you play \_\_\_\_ piano?
- 14 Our society is based on \_\_\_\_ family.
- 15 Martin comes from \_\_\_\_ large family.
- 16 \_\_\_\_ ccomputer has changed the way we live.

Ex.4 Choose the correct answer

1. **Solomon was famous for \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom.**
- 
- the
- a
- an
2. **\_\_\_\_\_ water is necessary for our life.**
- an
- the

- a
3. **Last year \_\_\_\_\_ summer was very hot and windy.**  
 the  
 a  
 an  
 -
4. **What season is the hottest? — \_\_\_\_\_ summer is.**  
 an  
 -  
 the  
 a
5. **Thank you for \_\_\_\_\_ breakfast you gave me last time.**  
 the  
 an  
 a  
 -
6. **My favourite colour is \_\_\_\_\_ red. Do you like it?**  
 an  
 the  
 a  
 -
7. **\_\_\_\_\_ dinner is at 12 o'clock. Don't be late, please.**  
 an  
 -  
 a  
 the
8. **\_\_\_\_\_ Byron is \_\_\_\_\_ poet and \_\_\_\_\_ novelist.**  
 an, a, the  
 the, an, a  
 -, a, a  
 an, the, a
9. **Who is \_\_\_\_\_ journalist among you?**  
 a  
 an  
 the  
 -
10. **\_\_\_\_\_ Rome was not built in \_\_\_\_\_ day.**  
 an, -  
 the, -

- , a
- the, a
11. **Don't tell \_\_\_\_\_ lie! I can't stand it any more!**
- a
- 
- the
- an
12. \_\_\_\_\_ **indifference and pride look very much alike.**
- a, a
- the, the
- 
- a, the
13. \_\_\_\_\_ **Europe and \_\_\_\_\_ Asia make one continent.**
- an, the
- the, an
- a, a
- , -
14. **Have you visited \_\_\_\_\_ Hermitage? It's one of the best museums in the world.**
- the
- a
- 
- an
15. **Excuse me. What is \_\_\_\_\_ time?**
- a
- the
- 
- an
16. \_\_\_\_\_ **facts as stated were very simple.**
- a
- the
- 
- an
17. **On \_\_\_\_\_ 20th January \_\_\_\_\_ man walked into \_\_\_\_\_ police station. 'I have cut my wife's throat,' he said. 'She's quite dead.'**
- an, the, a
- a, -, -
- the, a, a
- , -, -
18. **George was born into \_\_\_\_\_ ordinary middle-class family at \_\_\_\_\_ end of \_\_\_\_\_ nineteenth century.**

an, the, the

an, the, a

an, the, -

an, -, the

19. **After \_\_\_\_\_ leaving \_\_\_\_\_ school George had gone into his father's business, and after that he had married and settled down to \_\_\_\_\_ ordinary life.**

-, an, a

a, -, -

-, -, an

the, an, -

20. **Jane was not \_\_\_\_\_ particularly attractive wife.**

an

the

a

-