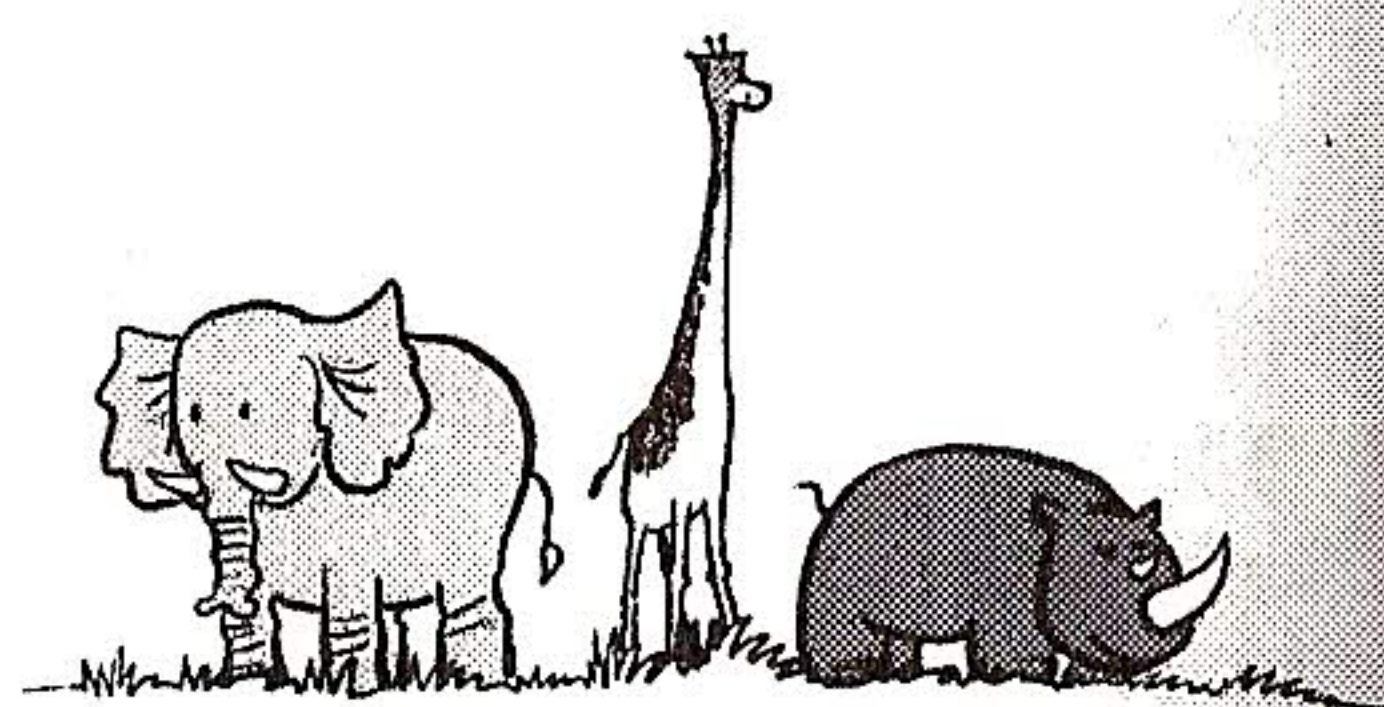


# the piano etc. ; the + adjective

A

Study these sentences:

- ☐ The giraffe is the tallest of all animals.
- ☐ The bicycle is an excellent means of transport.
- ☐ When was the telephone invented?
- ☐ The dollar is the currency (= the money) of the United States.



In these examples, the ... does not mean one specific thing. The giraffe = a specific type of animal, not a specific giraffe. We use the (+ singular countable noun) in this way to talk about a type of animal, machine etc.

In the same way we use the for musical instruments:

- ☐ Can you play the guitar?
- ☐ The piano is my favourite instrument.

Compare a and the:

- ☐ I'd like to have a piano. but I can't play the piano.
- ☐ We saw a giraffe at the zoo. but The giraffe is my favourite animal.

Note that we use man (= human beings in general / the human race) without the:

- ☐ What do you know about the origins of man? (not the man)

B

The + adjective

We use the + adjective (without a noun) to talk about groups of people, especially:

the young	the rich	the sick	the blind	the injured
the old	the poor	the disabled	the deaf	the dead
the elderly	the homeless	the unemployed		

The young = young people, the rich = rich people etc. :

- ☐ Do you think the rich should pay higher taxes?
- ☐ The government has promised to provide more money to help the homeless.

These expressions are always plural in meaning. For example, you cannot say 'a young' or 'the injured' for one person. You must say 'a young person', 'the injured woman' etc.

Note that we say 'the poor' (not the poors), 'the young' (not the youngs) etc.

C

The + nationality

You can use the + nationality adjectives that end in -ch or -sh (the French / the English / the Spanish etc.) The meaning is 'the people of that country':

- ☐ The French are famous for their food. (= the people of France)

The French / the English etc. are plural in meaning. We do not say 'a French / an English'.

You have to say a Frenchman / an Englishwoman etc.

You can also use the + nationality words ending in -ese (the Chinese / the Sudanese / the Japanese etc.):

- ☐ The Chinese invented printing.

But these words can also be singular (a Japanese, a Sudanese etc.).

Also a Swiss (singular) and the Swiss (= the people of Switzerland)

With other nationalities, the plural noun ends in -s. For example:

- an Italian → Italians
- a Mexican → Mexicans
- a Turk → Turks

With these words (Italians etc.), we do not normally use the to talk about the people in general (see Unit 75).

76.1 Answer the questions. Choose the right answer from the box. Don't forget the. Use a dictionary if necessary.

1

animals

tiger elephant  
rabbit cheetah  
giraffe kangaroo

2

birds

eagle penguin  
swan owl  
parrot robin

3

inventions

telephone wheel  
telescope laser  
helicopter typewriter

4

currencies

dollar peso  
euro rupee  
rouble yen

- 1 a Which of the animals is tallest? the giraffe
- b Which animal can run fastest?
- c Which of these animals is found in Australia?
- 2 a Which of these birds has a long neck?
- b Which of these birds cannot fly?
- c Which bird flies at night?
- 3 a Which of these inventions is oldest?
- b Which one is most recent?
- c Which one was especially important for astronomy?
- 4 a What is the currency of India?
- b What is the currency of Canada?
- c And the currency of your country?

76.2 Put in the or a.

- 1 When was the telephone invented?
- 2 Can you play musical instrument?
- 3 Jill plays violin in an orchestra.
- 4 There was piano in the corner of the room.
- 5 Can you play piano?
- 6 Our society is based on family.
- 7 Martin comes from large family.
- 8 computer has changed the way we live.

76.3 Complete these sentences using the + the following:

injured poor rich sick unemployed young

- 1 The young have the future in their hands.
- 2 Ambulances arrived at the scene of the accident and took to hospital.
- 3 Life is all right if you have a job, but things are not so easy for .
- 4 Julia has been a nurse all her life. She has spent her life caring for .
- 5 In England there is an old story about a man called Robin Hood. It is said that he robbed and gave the money to .

76.4 What do you call the people of these countries?

	one person (a/an ...)	the people in general
1 Canada	a Canadian	Canadians
2 Germany		
3 France		
4 Russia		
5 China		
6 Brazil		
7 England		
8 and your country		