

The Use of Articles with Proper Nouns

Do not use THE before:

- Continents, countries, cities: *Europe, Africa, Italy, France, Mexico, Bolivia, London, Miami*;

Exceptions: *the Netherlands, the Dominican Republic, the Philippines*

- Names of streets: *Fifth Avenue, Washington Blvd., Main St., Sheppard Rd., Broadway*
- Names of lakes, bays and falls: *Lake Titicaca, Lake Macbride, Lake Geneva, Niagara Falls*

Exception: a group of lakes like *the Great Lakes, and the Lake of Constance, the Lake of Lucerne*

- Names of single mountains: *Mount Everest, Bear Mountain*

Exception: ranges of mountains like *the Andes or the Rockies* or unusual names like *the Matterhorn*

- Names of islands: *Coney Island, Key West, Long Island*

Exception: island chains like *the Hawaiian Islands, the Hebrides, or the Canary Islands*

- Names of languages and nationalities: *Chinese, English, Spanish, Russian*
- Names of academic subjects: *mathematics, biology, history, computer science*
- Names of Universities: *Yale University, Columbia University, Oxford University*

Exception: of-forms *the University of Michigan, the University of Hawaii*

Use THE before:

- Names of all bodies of water (except lakes, bays and falls): *the Nile, the Pacific, the Mediterranean Sea, the English Channel, the Gulf of Mexico, the Strait of Gibraltar...*
- Deserts, forests, peninsulas and archipelagos: *the Sahara, the Black Forest, the Iberian Peninsula, the Malay Archipelago*
- Points on the globe: *the Equator, the North Pole*
- Names of geographical areas: *the Middle East, the West, the Near East*
- Names composed on common nouns plus proper nouns: *the Dominion of Canada, the New York City, the United States*
- Names of buildings, hotels, libraries: *The Empire State Building, the Niagara Falls Hotel, the Metropolitan museum, the Library of Congress*
- Names of theories, effects, devices, scales, and so on modified by a proper noun used as an adjective: *the Doppler effect, the Hubble telescope, the Kelvin scale.*

But: when a proper noun is used in possessive form, no article is used: *Einstein's theory of relativity, Broca's area, Wegener's hypothesis...*