

UNIT 69

The (2)

a Study these sentences:

- **The rose** is my favorite flower.
- **The giraffe** is the tallest of all animals.

In these examples **the . . .** doesn't mean one particular thing. **The rose** = roses in general, **the giraffe** = giraffes in general. We use **the** + *a singular countable noun* in this way to talk about a type of plant, animal, etc. Note that you can also use a plural noun without **the**:

- **Roses** are my favorite flowers. (*but not The roses . . .* – see Unit 70)

We also use **the** + *a singular countable noun* when we talk about a type of machine, an invention, etc. For example:

- When was **the telephone** invented?
- **The bicycle** is an excellent means of transportation.

We also use **the** for musical instruments:

- Can you play **the guitar**? (*not Can you play guitar?*)
- **The piano** is my favorite instrument.

b **The** + *adjective*

We use **the** with some adjectives (without a noun). The meaning is always plural. For example, **the rich** = rich people in general:

- Do you think **the rich** should pay more taxes?

We use **the** especially with these adjectives:

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

- That man over there is collecting money for **the homeless**.
- Why doesn't the government do more to help **the unemployed**?

These expressions are always plural. You cannot say "a blind" or "an unemployed." You have to say "a blind man," "an unemployed woman," etc.

c **The** + *nationality words*

You can use **the** with some nationality adjectives when you mean "the people of that country." For example:

- **The French** are famous for their food. (= the French people)
- **The English** are known for being polite. (= the English people)

You can use **the** in this way with these nationality words:

the British	the Welsh	the Spanish	the Dutch
the English	the Irish	the French	the Swiss

You can also use **the** with nationality words ending in **-ese** (**the Japanese** / **the Chinese**, etc.). With other nationalities you have to use a plural noun ending in **-s**:

(the) Russians (the) Italians (the) Arabs (the) Germans (the) Turks

For **the** see also Units 67, 68, and 70–73.

UNIT 69 Exercises

69.1 Answer these questions about yourself and your favorite things. Use a dictionary if you don't know the English words you need.

- Example: What is your favorite flower? *the rose*.....
1. What is your favorite tree?
 2. Which bird do you like most?
 3. What is your favorite car?
 4. What is your favorite musical instrument?

69.2 Make sentences from the words in parentheses (. . .).

- Example: (Mary / play / piano very well) *Mary plays the piano very well.*.....
1. (Jack / play / guitar very badly) Jack plays
 2. (Jill / play / violin in an orchestra)
 3. (I'd like / learn / play / piano)
 4. (you / play / guitar?)

69.3 Complete these sentences about animals. Choose one of the words in parentheses. Use a dictionary if you don't know these words.

- Example: *The giraffe*..... is the tallest of all animals. (elephant/lion/giraffe)
1. is the fastest of all animals. (tiger/cheetah/elephant)
 2. is a mammal, but it lives in the sea. (octopus/elephant/whale)
 3. is the largest living bird. (eagle/sparrow/ostrich)

69.4 Complete these sentences using the with these adjectives:

rich sick ~~blind~~ poor injured unemployed dead

- Example: Braille is a system of reading and writing by touch for *the blind*.....
1. Many people were killed in the plane crash. The bodies of were taken away. were taken to the hospital.
 2. Do you know the story of Robin Hood? It is said that he robbed and gave the money to
 3. For people with jobs, life is easier than it is for
 4. Linda has been a nurse all her life. She has spent her life caring for

69.5 What do you call the people from these places?

- Examples: England? *the English*..... Russia? *the Russians*.....
- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Britain? | 6. France? | 11. Switzerland? |
| 2. Ireland? | 7. Japan? | 12. America (the U.S.)? |
| 3. Greece? | 8. Germany? | 13. the Netherlands? |
| 4. Korea? | 9. China? | 14. and your country? |
| 5. Spain? | 10. Canada? | |