

The definite article - L'article défini

1

⇒ In English, the definite article has a unique form : **'the'**. Its pronunciation depends on the sound that follows:
[ðə] + consonant sound,
[ði] + vowel sound.

⇒ En anglais, l'article défini ne revêt qu'une forme : **'the'**. On le prononce différemment selon qu'il précède :
un son de consonne → [ðə],
ou un son de voyelle → [ði].

the TV programme / **the current pollution** → [ðə] *le programme télé / la pollution actuelle*
the umbrella / **the environment** → [ði] *le parapluie / l'environnement*

As a definite article, **'the'** may be found before any concrete or abstract noun, singular or plural.

L'article défini **'the'** pourra se rencontrer devant tout nom concret ou abstrait, singulier ou pluriel.

⇒ Two situations:

⇒ Deux cas de figure :

❶ WHEN NOT TO USE IT:

The article **'the'** is never used before a noun meaning something in general, something that has not been previously mentioned or specified.

❶ QUAND NE PAS L'UTILISER :

L'article défini **'the'** n'est jamais utilisé devant un nom désignant une généralité ou une chose non précisée ou désignée.

Men have always feared death

['Men' in general] – ['Death' in general]

Pollution is the worst thing our planet has to face

[Pollution in general]

Les hommes ont toujours craint la mort

[Les hommes en général] – [La mort en général]

La pollution est la pire des choses pour notre planète

[La pollution en général]

❶ The article **'the'** is not used before such words as: **church, college, court, home, hospital, market, prison, school**, etc ... when these places refer to the institution and not their geographical places.

❶ L'article défini **'the'** ne s'utilise pas devant des mots tels que **church, college, court, home, hospital, market, prison, school**, etc... dès lors que ces mots désignent l'institution et non le lieu géographique.

We go to church to pray

He was sent to prison

She will soon be admitted in hospital

We are supposed to go to college until 17

Nous allons à l'église pour prier

Il fut envoyé en prison

Elle ne va pas tarder à être hospitalisée

Nous sommes censés aller à l'école jusqu'à 17 ans

❶ On the contrary, the article **'the'** is used when referring to the building:

❶ A l'inverse, l'article **'the'** s'utilise dès lors que l'on se réfère à l'édifice :

She has gone to visit her friend in the prison

[The prison of the town = the building]

We had planned to visit the church, but it was locked

[The local church = the building]

Elle est allée rendre visite à son ami dans la prison

[La prison de la ville = l'immeuble, la bâtisse]

Nous avions prévu une visite de l'église, mais elle était fermée

[L'église du coin = l'édifice]

2 WHEN TO USE IT:

However **'the'** as an article becomes **compulsory**:

- **compulsory** before something unique:

the earth / the sea / the sky / the moon / the Queen

- **compulsory** before something already mentioned, identified or previously specified. (In this case **'the'** is almost synonymous with **'this'** or **'that'**).

2 QUAND L'UTILISER :

Cependant, l'article défini **'the'** devient **obligatoire** :

- **obligatoire** devant quelque chose d'unique :

- **obligatoire** devant une chose déjà mentionnée, identifiée ou précisée. (Dans ce cas de figure, **'the'** s'apparente à **'this'** ou **'that'** = 'celui-ci' 'celui-là')

The pollution of that river [*that very pollution*]

La pollution de cette rivière [cette pollution-là]

The men I have already told you about [*those men*]

Les hommes dont je vous ai parlé [ceux-là même]

The death of this soldier [*this death, not anyone's*]

La mort de ce soldat [... de celui-là, précisément]

(1)- Compare these two sentences :

(1)- Comparons les deux phrases suivantes :

Water boils at 100°

L'eau bout à 100°

[*Generally speaking*]

[*Cas général*]

It's five o'clock, the water is boiling

Il est cinq heures, l'eau bout

[*Obviously, to brew up: it's tea time!*]

[*Il est 17 heures, ... nécessairement l'eau pour le thé !*]

(2)- Compare these two sentences:

(2)- Comparons les deux phrases suivantes :

Lions are dangerous animals

Les lions sont des animaux dangereux

[*Lions in general*]

[*Les lions en général*]

Be careful! The lions are particularly dangerous

Soyez prudent ! Ces lions sont particulièrement dangereux

[*During a visit: particularly those lions in this zoo!*]

[*En visite au zoo : en particulier ceux de ce zoo !*]

Other situations when 'the', as an article, is compulsory:

Autres exemples d'utilisation obligatoire de l'article défini 'the' :

- **compulsory** before a noun connected to a relative clause or introduced by a preposition:

- **obligatoire** devant un nom relié à une proposition relative ou introduit par une préposition :

The lady in that beautiful dress

La dame qui porte cette belle robe

The boy in the blue trousers

Le garçon en pantalon bleu

The new boss that I have talked to

Le nouveau patron à qui je viens de parler

The place where I first met her

L'endroit où je l'ai rencontrée la première fois

- **compulsory** before a noun that, according to the context, can only refer to something already known and recognized as such:

The children are playing in the garden

[Our kids (or the neighbours')] [At home! Our own garden]

Whenever she falls ill, she sends for the doctor

[Obviously her own doctor]

- **obligatoire** devant un nom qui, en raison du contexte, se réfère à une chose connue ou reconnue comme telle :

Les enfants jouent dans le jardin

[Nos enfants (ou ceux des voisins)] [Le jardin de la maison]

Dès qu'elle tombe malade, elle appelle le docteur

[Son docteur à elle, évidemment, et pas un autre !]

- **compulsory** before certain geographical names of oceans, islands, mountains, countries, ...:

the Netherlands, the Sahara, the Antarctic, the Thames, ...

- **obligatoire** devant certaines appellations géographiques : océans, îles, montagnes, pays, ... :

- **compulsory** before compounds 'noun + of + noun':

the Straits of Dover, the Cape of Good Hope, the USA

- **obligatoire** devant un composé 'nom + of + nom' :

- **compulsory** before compounds 'adjective + noun':

the Ivory Coast, the Black Country

- **obligatoire** devant un composé 'adjectif + nom' :

- **compulsory** before music instruments played:

to play **the** piano, the play **the** flute



to play **an** instrument

- **obligatoire** pour un instrument de musique :

jouer du piano, jouer de la flûte



jouer d'un instrument

- **compulsory** before adjectives turned into nouns: *

the poor / the rich / the elderly

- **obligatoire** devant l'adjectif qui devient un nom : *

les pauvres / les riches / les personnes âgées



It never takes an 's'.

Yet, the verb that follows is plural

The rich have comfortable lives

The young are usually curious of knowledge



Ne prend jamais le 's' du pluriel.

Pourtant, le verbe qui suit est au pluriel.

Les riches mènent une vie de confort

Les jeunes sont souvent curieux de connaissances



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The earth



The moon



The Queen

* [see p.161, file 44]

* [voir p. 161, fiche 44]

1

The definite article - L'article défini

Exercises - Exercices

-(A)-

Complete the following sentences with 'a', 'an', 'some' or with the definite article 'the', when necessary.

Complétez les phrases à l'aide de 'a', 'an', 'some' ou de l'article défini 'the', quand cela est nécessaire.

- (1)- There are beautiful trees in park.
- (2)- door of garage needs to be repaired.
- (3)- girls tend to wear hats more often these days.
- (4)- fruits are good for health.
- (5)- Shall I offer her food and cup of tea?
- (6)- cats love milk.
- (7)- barman has just put glass on table.
- (8)- coffee is too hot, I'll put milk in it!
- (9)- There's park behind house.
- (10)- She does enjoy reading book in evening.

-(B)-

Complete the following sentences with the definite article 'the', when necessary.

Complétez les phrases suivantes à l'aide de l'article défini 'the', quand cela est nécessaire.

- (1)- Does Maureen like literature or music?
- (2)- ... people we met last night were friendly.
- (3)- Those we met night before your birthday were surprising.
- (4)- schools do not open on Sundays.
- (5)- young sometimes prefer hard rock music to classical music.
- (6)- men too rarely accept to do household chores and prefer football matches on TV.
- (7)- women appreciate flowers.
- (8)- flowers are more expensive during Winter time.
- (9)- overpopulation is a major issue in world today.
- (10)- USA tries to negotiate with Mexico over illegal immigration.
- (11)- She plays clarinet beautifully!
- (12)- daffodils are flowers I like best.
- (13)- Look at weather, this morning! I feel like going to seaside.
- (14)- rich often treat poor with contempt.
- (15)- man domesticated dog a long time ago.
- (16)- Cut flower on right, please.
- (17)- most boys enjoy football.
- (18)- Germany sells beer and buys red wine.

-(C)-

Geography and grammar - Complete the following sentences, using the definite article 'the' **when necessary**.

Take the geographical parts proposed into consideration:

Géographie et grammaire - Complétez les phrases suivantes **si nécessaire** à l'aide de l'article défini 'the'.

Utilisez les noms de lieux qui vous sont proposés :

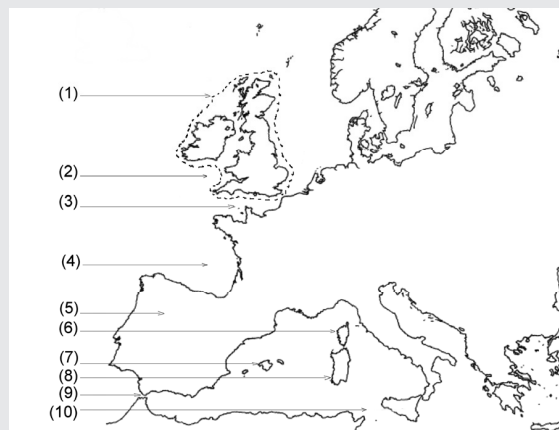
British Isles / Texas / St Pancras Station / Mount Everest / Lake Ontario / Netherlands / River Thames / Rockies / English Channel / Great Cordillera / restaurants and pubs / Pacific Ocean / Isle of Wight / north of France / (Turkey, Syria, Iraq) / Caribbean Sea

- (1)- Dallas is in
- (2)- Fort Niagara lies on the shore of
- (3)- Wales is a part of
- (4)- England and the continent are separated by
- (5)- Oahu is an island in
- (6)- Lille is a city in
- (7)- You can take a trip by boat along
- (8)- From there you get a view of
- (9)- The Tigris and Euphrates flow through
- (10)-are a mountain range in North America.
- (11)-is an island to the south of England.
- (12)- Today more and more tourists want to get to
- (13)-is the highest summit on earth.
- (14)- London'sare famous for their exotic food.
- (15)-is a spectacular rail terminal in London.
- (16)- Holland is often referred to as

-(D)-

Geographically speaking: on the map below, can you name these different places, making a correct use of the article when necessary?

Un peu de géographie : nommez chacun des endroits indiqués sur la carte en vous appliquant à utiliser l'article quand il convient de le faire.



2

Short forms of auxiliary verbs - Formes contractées des auxiliaires

⇒ These **short forms** essentially refer to oral use. Auxiliary verbs are also called 'modal auxiliaries'. See the list below:

⇒ Ces **formes contractées** sont essentiellement liées à une utilisation orale. Les verbes auxiliaires sont aussi appelés 'auxiliaires de mode'. En voici la liste :

be, am, is, are, was, were / **have**, has, had / **do**, does, did / **shall**, should / **will**, would
can, could / **may**, might / **must**, have to, am to / **ought to** / **used to** / **need** / **dare**

i Note the following common and natural use of weak form in speech:

i Notons la forme suivante, affaiblie, communément rencontrée à l'oral :

⇒ **I can do it**

[here, 'can' is not stressed and is pronounced [kən]] [ici, 'can' n'est pas accentué. Il se prononce [kən]]

For short form negatives, simply add '-n't', except for 'I'm not', **can't**, **shan't**, **won't**.

Pour les contractions négatives, ajouter simplement '-n't', à l'exception de : 'I'm not', **can't**, **shan't**, **won't**.

have ⇒ **haven't** / **could** ⇒ **couldn't** / **does** ⇒ **doesn't** / **had** ⇒ **hadn't**

i 'Need' and 'Dare' are used as true auxiliaries in questions and negatives. In affirmatives, they may be followed by an infinitive with 'to':

i 'Need' et 'Dare' sont utilisés en tant qu'auxiliaires dans les interrogatives et les négatives. Dans les affirmatives, ils peuvent être suivis de l'infinitif avec 'to':

The editorial dares to criticize the man *L'article n'hésite pas à critiquer l'homme*

How dare you suggest that? *Comment osez-vous suggérer une telle chose ?*

I dare not do it! *Je n'ose le faire !*

I'd never dare say it to her *Je n'oserais jamais le lui dire*

Dare I interrupt you? *Puis-je vous interrompre ?*

He dared not meet her *Il n'a pas osé la rencontrer*

He dared to call me a fool *Il a osé me traiter d'insensé*

They dared say I was wrong *Ils ont osé dire que j'avais tort*

i 'have' takes the 'haven't' or 'have you?' form, (without 'do'), when used as perfect tense auxiliary:

i 'have' se construit 'haven't' ou 'have you?' (sans 'do'), en tant qu'auxiliaire du passé composé :

I haven't been to the theatre for ages!
Have you seen that film?

Cela fait des siècles que je ne suis pas allé au théâtre !
Tu as vu ce film ?

i 'have' is conjugated with the auxiliary 'do' when:

i 'have' se conjugue avec 'do' dans les cas suivants :

- meaning occasional possession or access:
- sens de possession ou accès occasionnel :

Do you have a fever?

Vous avez de la fièvre ?

He doesn't have access to the internet.

Il n'a pas accès à l'internet

- meaning eating or drinking:
- sens de manger ou boire :

We didn't have dinner before she came home.

Nous n'avons pas commencé le repas avant son arrivée.

- meaning 'to experience something':
- sens d'expérience de quelque chose :

Did you have a good time with your friends?

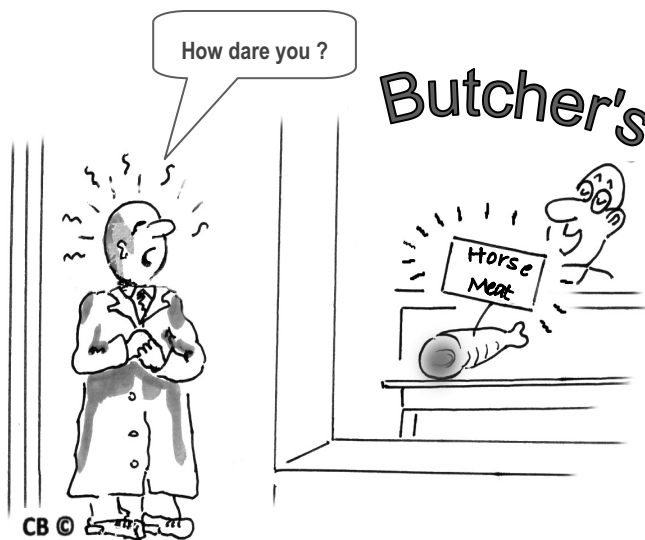
Est-ce que tu t'es amusé avec tes amis ?

i In American English, 'have' usually takes the auxiliary 'do' for all its uses (except in perfect tenses):

i En anglais américain, 'have' se construit souvent avec l'auxiliaire 'do' (sauf dans les temps composés) :

Do you still have that house in Virginia?
I don't have much money left.

Vous avez toujours cette maison en Virginie ?
Il ne me reste guère d'argent.



2

Short forms of auxiliary verbs - Formes contractées des auxiliaires

Exercises - Exercices

-(A)-

Turn the following sentences into the negative:

Mettez les phrases suivantes à la forme négative :

ex: He failed his exam ⇒ He didn't fail his exam

- (1)- She could hear everything. ⇒
- (2)- We had time to tell him. ⇒
- (3)- It was very early. ⇒
- (4)- She has enough to drink. ⇒
- (5)- There are some more muffins. ⇒
- (6)- We want the job done for tomorrow. ⇒
- (7)- She likes him very much. ⇒
- (8)- He comes here every week. ⇒
- (9)- She can speak Mandarin. ⇒
- (10)- We're coming tomorrow night. ⇒
- (11)- She must do it again. ⇒
- (12)- You would have told him if you had decided. ⇒

-(B)-

Answer the following questions into the negative:

Répondez aux questions par la négative :

ex: Did he pass his exam ? ⇒ No, he didn't pass his exam

- (1)- Can you run that fast? ⇒
- (2)- Will you have another cup of coffee? ⇒
- (3)- Have you seen my keys anywhere? ⇒
- (4)- Have you any brothers or sisters? ⇒
- (5)- Do you have lunch with your friends? ⇒
- (6)- Did you read yesterday's paper? ⇒
- (7)- Did you have to be with him all the time? ⇒
- (8)- Need he put on a clean shirt? ⇒
- (9)- Dare she accept so rapidly? ⇒
- (10)- Need it be over by Friday afternoon? ⇒
- (11)- Did you have you car washed this morning? ⇒
- (12)- Did he dare come with you? ⇒