

WHEN TO USE "THE"

- Use *the* to refer to something which has already been mentioned.

EXAMPLES

On Monday, an unarmed man stole \$1,000 from the bank. **The thief** hasn't been caught yet.

I was walking past Benny's Bakery when I decided to go into **the bakery** to get some bread.

- Use *the* when you assume there is just one of something in that place, even if it has not been mentioned before.

EXAMPLES

We went on a walk in **the forest** yesterday.

Where is **the bathroom**?

Turn left and go to number 45. Our house is across from **the Italian restaurant**.

- Use *the* in sentences or clauses where you define or identify a particular person or object.

EXAMPLES

The man who wrote this book is famous.

I scratched **the red car** which is parked outside.

I live in **the small house** with a blue door.

- Use *the* to refer to people or objects that are unique.

EXAMPLES

The sun rose at 6:17 this morning.

You can go anywhere in **the world**.

Clouds drifted across **the sky**.

- Use *the* before superlatives and ordinal numbers.

EXAMPLES

This is **the highest building** in New York.

She read **the last chapter** of her new book first.

This is **the third time** I have called you today.

- Use *the* with adjectives, to refer to a whole group of people.

EXAMPLES

The French enjoy cheese.

The elderly require special attention.

- Use *the* with decades.

EXAMPLES

He was born in **the seventies**.

This is a painting from **the 1820's**.

- Use *the* with clauses introduced by *only*

EXAMPLES

This is **the only day** we've had sunshine all week.

You are **the only person** he will listen to.

- Use *the* with names of geographical areas, rivers, seas, oceans, canals, mountain ranges and groups of islands

EXAMPLES

Our ship crossed **the Atlantic** in 7 days.

I will go on a cruise down **the Nile**.

- Use *the* with countries that have plural names

EXAMPLES

I have never been to **the Netherlands**.

Do you know anyone who lives in **the Philippines**?

- Use *the* with countries that include the words "republic", "kingdom", or "states" in their names.

EXAMPLES

She is visiting **the United States**.

James is from **the Republic of Ireland**.

- Use *the* with newspaper names.

EXAMPLES

I read it in **the Guardian**.

She works for **the New York Times**.

- Use *the* with the names of famous buildings, works of art, museums, or monuments.

EXAMPLES

Have you been to **the Vietnam Memorial**?

We went to **the Louvre** and saw **the Mona Lisa**.

I would like to visit **the Eiffel Tower**.

- Use *the* with the names of hotels & restaurants, unless these are named after a person.

EXAMPLES

They are staying at **the Hilton** on 6th street.

- Use *the* with the names of families, but not with the names of individuals.

EXAMPLES

We're having dinner with **the Smiths** tonight.

The Browns are going to the play with us.

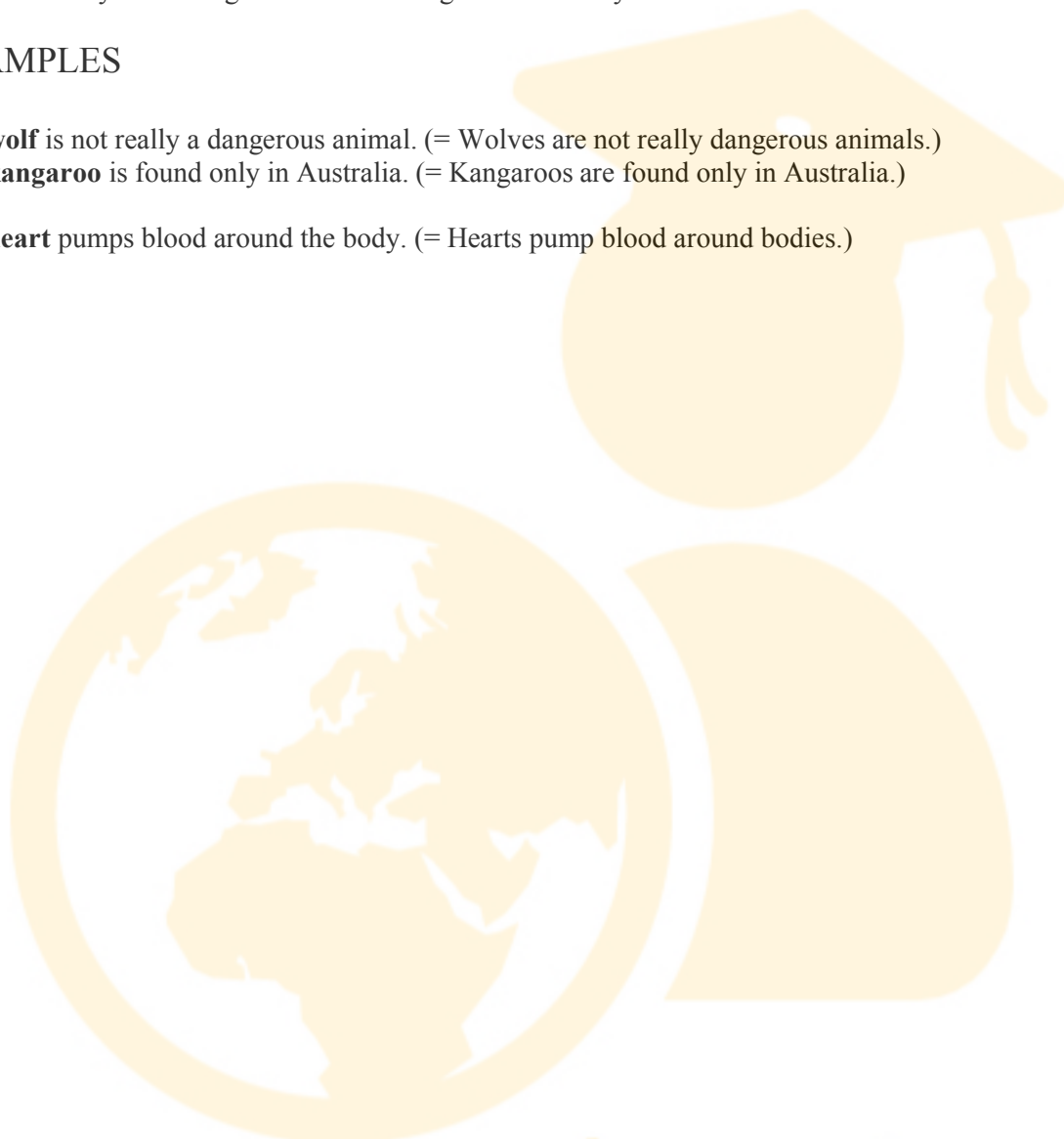
- Use *the* to say something about all the things referred to by a noun:

EXAMPLES

The wolf is not really a dangerous animal. (= Wolves are not really dangerous animals.)

The kangaroo is found only in Australia. (= Kangaroos are found only in Australia.)

The heart pumps blood around the body. (= Hearts pump blood around bodies.)



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