

## When To Use *The*

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

*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. For example:

*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. For example:

*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. For example:

*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. For example:

*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. For example:

*The French enjoy cheese.*

*The elderly require special attention.*

- Use *the* with decades. For example:

*He was born in the seventies.*

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

- Use *the* with clauses introduced by *only*. For example:

*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. For example:

*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. For example:

*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. For example:

*She is visiting the United States.*

*James is from the Republic of Ireland.*

- Use *the* with newspaper names. For example:

*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. For example:

*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. For example:

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

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

*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. For example:

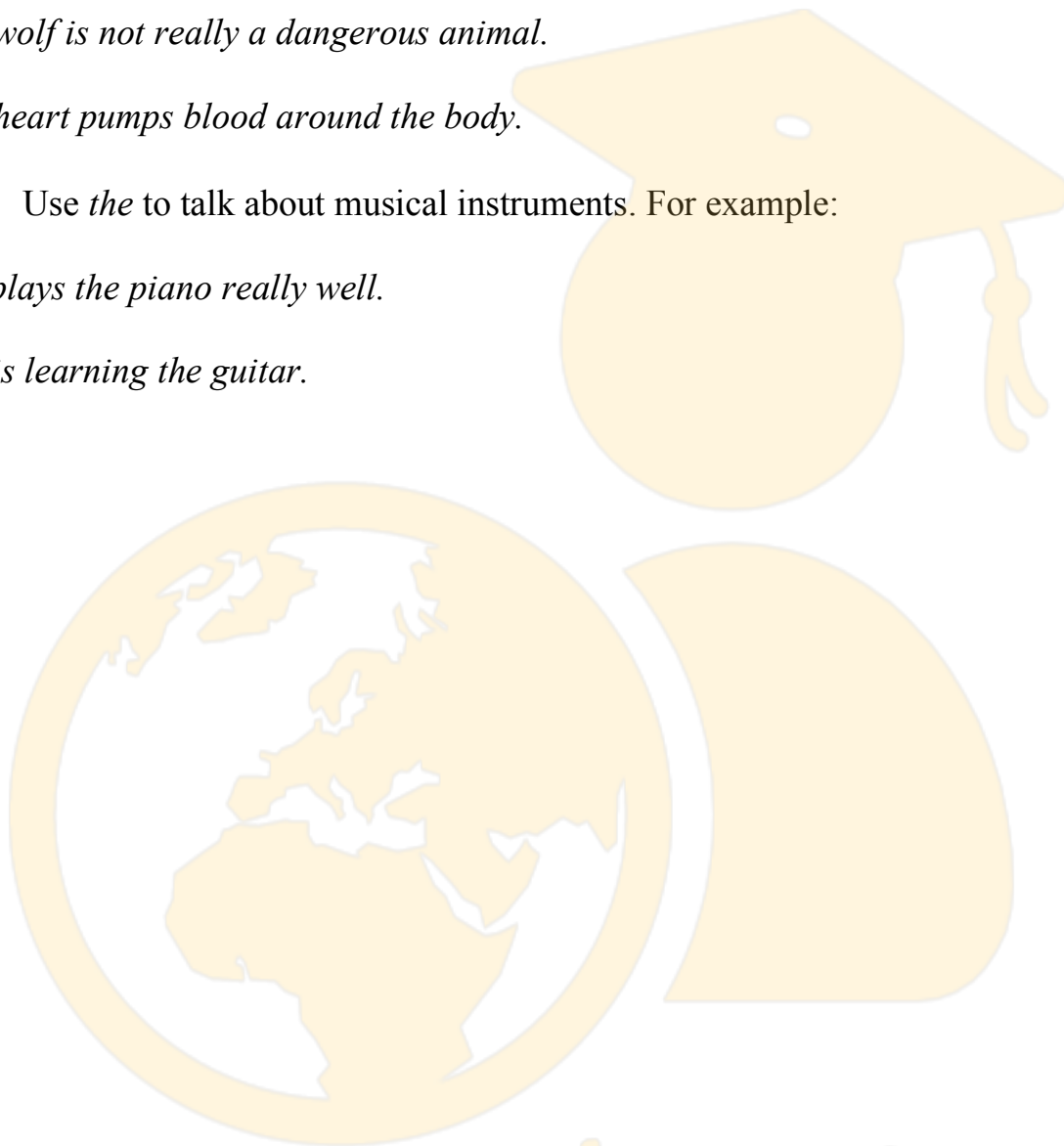
*The wolf is not really a dangerous animal.*

*The heart pumps blood around the body.*

- Use *the* to talk about musical instruments. For example:

*Joe plays the piano really well.*

*She is learning the guitar.*



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