

FBI HIGH SCHOOL HOLIDAY ASSIGNMENT 1

NOUNS: SPECIAL OMISSIONS OF THE DEFINITE ARTICLE, 'THE'

Level: Intermediate

In some situations, 'the' is not normally used before certain nouns.

1. Names of meals

We do not normally use 'the' with names of meals (breakfast, lunch, supper etc.)

What did you have for **lunch**?

We usually have **supper** at 8pm.

If there is an adjective before the name of the meal, we use 'a':

I had a very nice **breakfast**.

But we use **the** when we give extra information about a particular meal:###pp###

The breakfast that you made this morning was excellent.

2. School, hospital, church, prison, university

Fiona goes to school every day. This morning, Fiona's mother went to **the school** to see her daughter's teacher.

We do not use **the** before school when we are thinking of the idea or use of school (i.e. a place for learning). When we are thinking of a particular school (e.g. Fiona's school), we use **the**. We can also say:

Fiona's daughter is at **school**. (= as a pupil)

Fiona's mother is at **the school**. (= as a visitor)

We talk about **hospital, church, prison** and **university** in the same way:

Margaret is very ill. She is in **hospital** right now. (as a patient) Her husband is going to **the hospital** to visit her. (as a visitor in a particular hospital)

Marcin goes to **church** every Sunday. (for a religious service) Last week, there was a small fire at **the church**. (the building)

3. Noun + number

We do not use 'the' before a noun + number:

Turn to **page 24**.

Anne is staying in **Room 23**.

The next train to Madrid leaves from **Platform 3**.

4. Other expressions

We do not use 'the' in the following expressions:

I feel very tired now. I'm going to **bed**. (to sleep)

BUT: I found my grammar book under **the bed**. (a particular piece of furniture)

I'm going **home** now.

Tom is not at **home** at the moment.

What time do you start **work**? (your job)

BUT: **The work** you did for me was excellent. (a particular piece of work)

Dialogue

- After **supper**, I'm going **home**. I must go to **bed**.
- Why so early?
- Well, I have to get up for **work** tomorrow morning. And after that, I'm going to visit my grandmother. She is in **hospital**.

Practice 1

Complete the pairs of sentences below with the following words from the box.
Use 'the' where necessary.

hospital	church	lunch	school
prison	bed	university	work

1. Lara is in _____ right now. She had an accident last week.
Lara is feeling much better today. This morning, I went to _____ to see her.
2. Samuel is a Catholic. He goes to _____ every Sunday.
Yesterday, I went to _____ to take pictures of the spire.
3. _____ we had yesterday at the new restaurant was delicious.
Would you like to have _____ with me today?
4. What were your favourite subjects at _____ ?
Mrs. Perez went to _____ to speak to her daughter's teacher.
5. Five years ago, Viktor robbed a bank. He is still in _____ .
Andrew went to _____ to visit his brother Viktor.
6. I sat down on _____ and thought about what to do that day.
Jack isn't up yet. He is still in _____ .
7. Alice is a medical student. She goes to _____ every day.
The workmen went to _____ to repair the roof of the science faculty building.
8. Can you show me _____ you did for me yesterday?
If you don't leave now you will be late for _____ !

Practice 2

Complete the following sentences with `the' or '-` if no word is required.

1. You can find an explanation of the grammar on _____ Page 32.
2. I didn't see you at the party last night. Were you at _____ home?
3. _____ home we saw yesterday was affordable and well-located. I think we should buy it.
4. Here are your keys, sir. You are staying in _____ Room 26.
5. I'm rather hungry. What time is _____ dinner?
6. "How do I get to the bus station?" "Go to _____ hospital at the end of the street and turn left."
7. What time do you start _____ work?
8. Oxford Street underground station is located in _____ Zone 1.