

The definite article - L'article défini

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→ 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]

Les hommes ont toujours craint la mort

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

Pollution is the worst thing our planet has to face

[Pollution in general]

La pollution est la pire des choses pour notre planète

[La pollution en général]

❷ 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.

❷ 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 endroits désignent l'institution et non le lieu géographique.

We go to church to pray

Nous allons à l'église pour prier

He was sent to prison

Il fut envoyé en prison

She will soon be admitted in hospital

Elle ne va pas tarder à être hospitalisée

We are supposed to go to college until 17

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

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]	<i>La pollution de cette rivière [cette pollution-là]</i>
The men I have already told you about [those men]	<i>Les hommes dont je vous ai parlé [ceux-là même]</i>
The death of this soldier [his death, not anyone's]	<i>La mort de ce soldat [... de celui-là, précisément]</i>

 **-(1)-** Compare these two sentences :


 **-(1)-** Comparons les deux phrases suivantes :


Water boils at 100° [Generally speaking]	<i>L'eau bout à 100°</i> [Cas général]
It's five o'clock, the water is boiling [Obviously, to brew up: it's tea time!]	<i>Il est cinq heures, l'eau bout</i> [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 [Lions in general]	<i>Les lions sont des animaux dangereux</i> [Les lions en général]
Be careful! The lions are particularly dangerous [During a visit: particularly those lions in this zoo!]	<i>Soyez prudent ! Ces lions sont particulièrement dangereux</i> [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	<i>La dame qui porte cette belle robe</i>
The boy in the blue trousers	<i>Le garçon en pantalon bleu</i>
The new boss that I have talked to	<i>Le nouveau patron à qui je viens de parler</i>
The place where I first met her	<i>L'endroit où je l'ai rencontrée la première fois</i>

- **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

 It never takes an 's'.
Yet, the verb that follows is plural

- **obligatoire** devant un adjectif qui devient alors un nom :

les pauvres / les riches / les personnes âgées

 Ne prend jamais le 's' du pluriel.
Pourtant, le verbe qui suit est au pluriel.

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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 usually 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

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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	<i>L'article n'hésite pas à critiquer l'homme</i>
How dare you suggest that?	<i>Comment osez-vous suggérer une telle chose ?</i>
I dare not do it!	<i>Je n'ose le faire !</i>
I'd never dare say it to her	<i>Je n'oserais jamais le lui dire</i>
Dare she go alone?	<i>Est-ce qu'elle ose y aller toute seule ?</i>
He dared not meet her	<i>Il n'a pas osé la rencontrer</i>
He dared to call me a fool	<i>Il a osé me traiter d'insensé</i>
They dared say I was wrong	<i>Ils ont osé dire que j'avais tort</i>

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! *Cela fait des siècles que je ne suis pas allé au théâtre*
Have you seen that film? *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 :

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? *Vous avez toujours cette maison en Virginie ?*
I don't have much money left. *Il ne me reste guère d'argent.*

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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 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 to be rude? (answer in affirmative) ⇒