



# Use of articles with place names

Continents

Cities

Mountains

Organizations

Buildings

...and other stuff

# No Pains No Gains!

Popular wisdom ☺



- Hello, guys! Today we continue dealing with the biggest absurdity of English grammar — **articles.**
- The use of the articles is one of the most difficult points in the language. Fortunately, most article mistakes do not matter to much. Even if we leave all the articles out of a sentence, it can usually be understood.
- **However, it's better to use the articles correctly if possible. (popular wisdom again)**

So, let's start...

Let's start with a history exam paper of one really smart guy

*The Egyptians were an ancient race of Caucasians residing in one of the northern sections of Africa. The latter as we all know is the largest continent in the Eastern Hemisphere.*

*The Egyptians are extremely to us today for various reasons. Modern science would still like to know what the secret ingredients were that the Egyptians used when they wrapped up dead people so that their faces would not rot for innumerable centuries...*

[Holden Caulfield. "The Cather in the Rye" by J.D.Salinger]

- As you can see there are some place names used in this text.
- The moment of truth: with some words we use *the*, with the others – not.
- Reasonable question: how come?

The Egyptians  
Caucasians  
Africa  
The Eastern Hemisphere

# Time of boring rules



- Remember!
- We do not normally use ***the*** with place names



**Continents and**  
**geographical areas: *Africa,***  
***Europe, South America***  
**Countries: *France, Japan,***  
***Switzerland***  
**States, regions: *Texas, Ohio,***  
***Central Europe***  
**Cities, towns: *Cairo, New***  
***York, Madrid***



Don't forget about the  
exceptions!

The Antarctic

The Arctic

The Argentine (but Argentina)

The Crimea

The Netherlands

The Hague

The Riviera

The Ruhr



**Streets, roads, squares and addresses: *Oxford Street, Fifth Avenue, 24 North Street***  
**Parks: *Hyde Park, Waterloo Bridge***  
**Buildings and institutions(the first word is the name of a person or a place): *Kennedy Airport, Victoria Station, London Zoo***



But we say  
the White House,  
the Royal Palace



**Mountains: Everest, Etna, Kilimanjaro**

**Bays: Hudson Bay, Biscay Bay**

**Islands: Corsica, Sicily, Bermuda, Malta**

Remember, buddy!

We use *mount* and *lake* without *the*:  
***Mount Everest, Mount Etna, Lake  
Superior***



We use *the*



**Names of the countries with the words**  
**kingdom, republic, states, union:** the  
**United Kingdom, the Dominican Republic**  
**Oceans, seas, rivers, canals:** the **Atlantic**  
**(Ocean), the Channel, The Nile**  
**Deserts:** the **Sahara, the Gobi**  
**Groups of islands:** the **Bahamas, the**  
**Canaries**  
**Mountain ranges:** the **Alps, the Himalayas**





**Hotels, restaurants, pubs: *the Station Hotel, the Hilton, the Red Lion***

**Theatres, cinemas: *the Palace Theatre, the Odeon Cinema***

**Museums, galleries: *the British Museum, the Tate Gallery***

**Newspapers: *the Washington Post, the Guardian***

**Organizations: *the European Community, the BBC***

# Now it's time for some practice



- You are just supposed to do some exercises... and that's all!
- Be attentive!
- Be cool!
- Be smart!
- Use your brains!

# A, an, the or nothing? Choose the right answer.

- 1. Is \_\_\_ Everest the highest mountain in the world?
- 2. Have you ever gone skiing in \_\_\_ Alps?
- 3. There is \_\_\_ Egyptian in my new class.
- 4. What is the capital of \_\_\_ Netherlands?
- 5. He graduated from \_\_\_ Yale University in 1997.
- 6. They spent two months at \_\_\_ Lake Ontario last year.

7. **Brazil is the largest country in \_\_ South America.**
8. **\_\_ Nile is the second-longest river in the world.**
9. **\_\_ Fifth Avenue separates the East Side of Manhattan from the West Side**
10. **Amundsen and his companions reached \_\_ South Pole on December 14, 1911.**
11. **Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia are in \_\_ Eastern Hemisphere.**
12. **Visitors to \_\_ Guggenheim Museum view paintings from a spiral ramp that goes from the main level to the top of the building.**



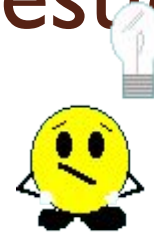
# Answers



- 1. Is ☺ Everest the highest mountain in the world?
- 2. Have you ever gone skiing in **the** Alps?
- 3. There is **an** Egyptian in my new class.
- 4. What is the capital of **the** Netherlands?
- 5. He graduated from ☺ Yale University in 1997.
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- 7. Brazil is the largest country in ☺ South America.
- 8. **The** Nile is the second-longest river in the world.
- 9. ☺ Fifth Avenue separates the East Side of Manhattan from the West Side
- 10. Amundsen and his companions reached **the** South Pole on December 14, 1911.
- 11. Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia are in **the** Eastern Hemisphere.
- 12. Visitors to **the** Guggenheim Museum view paintings from a spiral ramp that goes from the main level to the top of the building.



# Here are some geography questions. Use *the* if necessary



- Where's Argentina?
- Of which country is Stockholm the capital?
- What is the smallest continent in the world?
- Which is the longest river in South America?
- Which river flows through London?
- Of which country is Bangkok the capital?
- South America
- Sweden
- Australia
- The Amazon
- The Thames
- Thailand

**The Конец**

**Thanks for attention!**

**Alexei Buckovtsov's  
presentation**

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*Keep  
Smiling*