***The***

Let’s read this sentence:

The cinema is on First Avenue.

The restaurant is between the gym and the park.

**The** (definite article)

**Grammar Notes**

1. A person, place, or thing is unique (there is only one). ***Example***: **The moon** was shining.
2. The context makes it clear which person, place, or thing you mean. **Example:** **A:** Who is she?

 **B:** She is **the teacher**.

1. The noun is mentioned for the second time (it is often indefinite the first time it is mentioned).

**Example:** They ate **cake**. **The** **cake** was delicious.

1. A phrase or adjective such as **first, best, right, wrong, or only** identifies the noun.

**Example:** Hewas **the best hunter** in the country.

1. Use the definite article with **proper nouns,** for examples the name of certain books, countries, and **geographical features.**

Let’s see some examples for **geographical features and some names.**

But we do use the definite article with:

1. countries whose ***names include words like kingdom, states or republic:***

**the** United Kingdom **the** Kingdom of Bhutan **the** United States

1. countries which have ***plural nouns as their names:***

**the** Netherlands **the** Philippines

1. ***geographical features,*** such as mountain ranges, **groups of islands**, rivers, seas, oceans and canals:
2. **the** Canaries **the** Atlantic (Ocean)

**Do not use the with** streets, cities, states, counties, continents, bays, single lakes, single mountains, **islands**

**My office is on Main Street**

1. ***well-known buildings or works of art:***

**the** Empire State Building **the** Mona Lisa

1. ***hotels, pubs and restaurants:***

**The** Ritz Hotel

But note that **we do not use the definite article if the name of the hotel or restaurant is the name of the owner:**

**Brown's Hotel**

Let’s do some exercises:

1. Next week we are flying to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Canary Islands. **Reason:** Use **“The”** group islands (geographical features)
2. Bob is from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ U.S. **Reason:** Use **“The”** countries whose names include words like kingdom, states or republic:
3. My sister moved to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ France last year. **Reason: Don’t** use **“the”** before cities.
4. My favorite basketball team is from \_\_\_\_\_ Ohio state. **Reason:** Don’t use **“the ”** before states.
5. The library is between \_\_\_\_\_ grocery store and \_\_\_\_ school. **Reason:** Use **“the”** before The context makes it clear which person, place, or thing you mean.
6. The restaurant is next to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hanson’s Hotel. **Reason:** Don’t use **“the”** definite article if the name of the hotel or restaurant is the name of the owner:

# References

Eckstut-Didier, S. (2012). *Focus on Grammar 1.* New York: Pearson.