

## Unit 73 The (2)

**a** Study these sentences:

- **The rose** is my favourite flower.
- **The giraffe** is the tallest of all animals.

In these examples **the ...** doesn't mean one particular thing. **The rose** = roses in general, **the giraffe** = giraffes in general. We use **the** + a *singular countable noun* in this way to talk about a type of plant, animal etc. Note that you can also use a plural noun without **the**:

- **Roses** are my favourite flowers. (*but not* 'The roses ...' - see Unit 74)

We also use **the** + a *singular countable noun* when we talk about a type of machine, an invention etc. For example:

- When was **the telephone** invented?
- **The bicycle** is an excellent means of transport.

We also use **the** for musical instruments:

- Can you play **the guitar**? (*not* 'Can you play guitar?')
- **The piano** is my favourite instrument.

**b** **The** + *adjective*

We use **the** with some adjectives (without a noun). The meaning is always plural. For example, **the rich** = rich people in general:

- Do you think **the rich** should pay more taxes?

We use **the** especially with these adjectives:

<b>the rich</b>	<b>the old</b>	<b>the blind</b>	<b>the sick</b>	<b>the disabled</b>	<b>the injured</b>
<b>the poor</b>	<b>the young</b>	<b>the deaf</b>	<b>the dead</b>	<b>the unemployed</b>	

- That man over there is collecting money for **the blind**.
- Why doesn't the government do more to help **the unemployed**?

These expressions are always plural. You cannot say 'a blind' or 'an unemployed'. You have to say 'a blind **man**', 'an unemployed **woman**' etc.

**c** **The** + *nationality words*

You can use **the** with some nationality adjectives when you mean 'the people of that country'. For example:

- **The French** are famous for their food. (= the French people)
- Why do **the English** think they are so wonderful? (= the English people)

You can use **the** in this way with these nationality words:

<b>the British</b>	<b>the Welsh</b>	<b>the Spanish</b>	<b>the Dutch</b>
<b>the English</b>	<b>the Irish</b>	<b>the French</b>	<b>the Swiss</b>

Also with nationality words ending in **-ese** (**the Japanese** / **the Chinese** etc.) With other nationalities you have to use a plural noun ending in **-s**:

(**the**) **Russians** (**the**) **Italians** (**the**) **Arabs** (**the**) **Scots** (**the**) **Turks**

For **the** see also Units 71, 72 and 74-77.