

**Listening Exercise: Listen to the paragraph and answer the questions.**

1. What color is the man's jacket?

Where does the man go on the bus?

Where is the bus stop?

How long is the man's bus ride?

The man must be at work by: 8 AM      8:15 AM                      7:30 AM                      7:45 AM

2. Describe Nancy.

What color is Nancy's house?

What animal does Nancy have as a pet?

What day does she feed them at five o'clock?

3. Why are airlines cutting back on flights?

What will the result be for passengers?

4. How did Jerry do on the test?

Does Jerry like to study with others?

5. Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.?

What did he win?

He was in favor of equal treatment for all \_\_\_\_\_.

6. This paragraph is about \_\_\_\_\_.

Are there still cowboys in the U.S.?

According to the paragraph, which of these are jobs cowboys do?

a-repair fences

b-brand cattle

c-cook over a campfire

d-feed livestock

e-take care of injured animals

7. This article is about \_\_\_\_\_.

What time of year was it?

What lay in front of them on the sidewalk?

What were the men able to buy with the money they collected?

What did they do as the crowd died down?

8. What will the new car do when it detects a possible crash?

A car is already being marketed that \_\_\_\_\_.

The point of these innovations is to make driving \_\_\_\_\_.

**Using A, AN and THE before nouns**

A singular countable noun requires A. If the noun begins with a vowel, use AN not A.

Examples: A cat jumped on my windowsill. A boy dug a hole in the sand. An oriole flew into the window.

An alligator swam toward the duck.

Uncountable (non-count) nouns are like plural nouns and do not require A or AN. Example: Dust is on the cabinet. Would you like dessert? Crime doesn't pay. I need information about registering for a green card.

What about nouns like “time”. You can say, “I had a good time.” but NOT “I had a time.” You can say, “Thank you for taking time with me.” OR “Thank you for taking the time to review my application.” So it depends upon how you are using it.

When should I use THE instead of A or AN?

When you are talking about a particular person place or thing, not just any place or thing. Example-If we you are telling me some unknown dog ran into your yard, you use A. *A dog ran into my yard and chased my cat.* But if we are talking about a particular dog, like the neighbor’s dog that escaped from its house, we use THE. *My neighbor’s dog escaped from the house. The dog ran into my yard.*

Most of the time, proper nouns don’t need THE: John NOT the John, President Obama NOT the President Obama, Lake Victoria NOT the Lake Victoria. But there are many exceptions. (see rule chart)

After reviewing the rule chart, decide if these sentences are correct. If they are NOT correct, correct them.

1. I took a boat down Nile.
2. We swam in the Lake Titicaca.
3. I live in the Mexico.
4. We shopped on the Fifth Avenue.
5. I swam in Mediterranean Sea.
6. The weather on equator is warm.
7. I studied the mathematics in college.
8. I attended the Harvard University.
9. I attended the University of Miami.
10. I swam English Channel.
11. I live in United States now.
12. I am studying the Einstein’s theory of relativity.
13. I am studying the theory of relativity.
14. We climbed to the top of Empire State Building.
15. We viewed the New York City skyline.
16. We looked at paintings in Metropolitan Museum of Art.
17. We took a camel ride through Sahara Desert.
18. The Mount Everest is in Himalayas.
19. United Nations provides medical assistance to developing nations.
20. I toured Statue of Liberty.
21. We ate at the McDonalds.
22. We ate at the McDonalds near the office.
23. The election was held in State of Vermont.
24. The Charles Mansfield was a very bad man.
25. Our church is on the Lavaca Street.

## Rules for using *the* with proper nouns

no “the”	the
<b>Countries</b> EX: France, India	<b>Countries with United, Union, or Republic in the name</b> EX: the United States <b>Countries with plural forms:</b> EX: the Philippines the Netherlands
<b>Cities, states</b> EX: Rome, Vermont	<b>States with “of”</b> EX : the State of Vermont
<b>Continents</b> EX: Africa, Asia	<b>Geographical areas</b> EX : the Middle East
<b>Lakes</b> EX : Lake Champlain	<b>Rivers, seas, oceans, canals, gulfs</b> EX : the Mississippi River the Mediterranean Sea the Pacific Ocean the Suez Canal the Gulf of Mexico
<b>Islands: singular</b> EX: Wake Island	<b>Islands: plural</b> EX: the Canary Islands
<b>Colleges, universities</b> EX: MIT Harvard University Saint Michael’s College	<b>Universities with “of” in the name</b> EX: the University of Vermont
<b>Buildings with “hall” in the name</b> EX: Jeanmarie Hall	<b>Famous buildings and museums</b> EX: the Empire State Building the Louvre Museum
<b>Streets</b> EX: Fifth Avenue Babcock Street Sunset Boulevard	<b>Deserts</b> EX: the Sahara Desert the Gobi Desert
<b>Mountains: singular</b> EX: Mount Mansfield Mount Everest	<b>Mountains: plural (mountain ranges)</b> EX: the Rocky Mountains the Green Mountains the Appalachians