

For the difference between **the** and **a/an** see Unit 67.

- a** We say **the** . . . when there is only one of something:
- What is **the** longest river in the world? (There is only one longest river in the world.)
  - We went to **the** most expensive restaurant in town.
  - **The** only television program she watches is the news.
  - Paris is **the** capital of France.
  - Everybody left at **the** end of the meeting.
  - **The** earth goes around **the** sun. (also: **the** moon / **the** world / **the** universe)

- b** We say: **the sea the sky the ground the city / the country**
- Would you rather live in **the city** or in **the country**?
  - Don't sit on **the ground**! It's wet.
  - We looked up at all the stars in **the sky**.

We say **go to sea / be at sea** (without **the**) when the meaning is **go/be on a voyage**:

- Ken is a seaman. He spends most of his life **at sea**.

*but:* I would love to live near **the sea**. (*not* near sea)

We say **space** (*not* the space) when we mean space in the universe:

- There are millions of stars **in space**. (*not* in the space)

*but:* He tried to park his car, but **the space** wasn't big enough.

- c** **Movies theater radio television**

We say **the movies / the theater**:

- We went to **the movies** last night.
- Do you often go to **the theater**?

Note that when we say **the theater**, we do not necessarily mean one particular theater.

We usually say **the radio**:

- We often listen to **the radio**.
- I heard the news on **the radio**.

But we usually say **television** (without **the**):

- We often watch **television**.
- I watched the news on **television**.

*but:* Can you turn off **the television**, please? (= the television set)

- d** *Meals:* We do not normally use **the** with the names of meals:

- What time is **lunch**?
- We had **dinner** in a restaurant.
- What did you have for **breakfast**?
- Ann invited me to (*or* for) **dinner**.

But we say **a meal**:

- We had **a meal** in a restaurant.

We also say **a** when there is an adjective before **lunch/breakfast**, etc.

- Thank you. That was **a very nice lunch**. (*not* that was very nice lunch)

For more information about **the** see Units 67 and 69–73.

# UNIT 68 Exercises

## 68.1 Answer these questions in the way shown.

Example: "Was it a good movie?" "Yes, it was *the best movie*. I've ever seen."

1. "Is it a big hotel?" "Yes, it is ..... in the city."
2. "Is he a rich man?" "Yes, he is ..... I've ever met."
3. "Was it a bad accident?" "Yes, it was ..... I've ever seen."
4. "Is it a cheap restaurant?" "Well, it is ..... you will find."
5. "It's hot today, isn't it?" "Yes, it is ..... day of the year."

## 68.2 Put in a/an or the. Sometimes you don't need either word – you leave it blank. (If necessary see Unit 67 for a/an and the).

Examples: We went to *the* ..... most expensive restaurant in town.

Do you want to watch ..... television this evening?

Last night we went out for ..... *a* ..... meal in ..... *a* ..... restaurant.

1. I wrote my name at ..... top of the page.
2. .... moon goes around ..... earth every 27 days.
3. The Soviet Union was ..... first country to send a man into ..... space.
4. Did you see *the* movie on ..... television or in ..... movie theater?
5. After ..... lunch, we went for a walk by ..... sea.
6. I'm not very hungry. I had ..... big breakfast.
7. John was ..... only person I talked to at the party.
8. Liz lives in ..... small village in ..... country.
9. Peru is ..... country in South America. .... capital is Lima.
10. I never listen to ..... radio. In fact, I don't have ..... radio.
11. It was ..... beautiful day. .... sun shone brightly in ..... sky.
12. I've invited Tom to ..... dinner next Wednesday.
13. What is ..... highest mountain in ..... world?
14. We don't go to ..... theater very much these days. In fact, in ..... town where we live there isn't ..... theater.
15. It was a long voyage. We were at ..... sea for four weeks.
16. I prefer swimming in ..... sea to swimming in pools.
17. Can you turn ..... television down, please? It's a little loud.

## 68.3 Here are some things Tom did yesterday. Write a sentence for each.

Morning:	8:00 breakfast	8:30–9:00 radio	9:30 walk/country
Afternoon:	1:00 lunch	2:30 movies	
Evening:	6:30 dinner	8:00–10:00 television	

1. *At 8:00 he had breakfast.* .....
2. From 8:30 until 9:00 he listened .....
3. At 9:30 he went for a walk in .....
4. At 1:00 he .....
5. At 2:30 .....
6. At 6:30 .....
7. From .....