

A movie -vs- THE movie (1 Answers)

This sheet deals with knowing when to use A and when to use The

“A (An)” is used:

1. to introduce a **new subject noun** into a conversation
An accident happened on the highway. (This is a new topic)
2. to show that you are talking about **one of many things**
I saw a movie last weekend. (There are many movies to see,
but I saw one of them)

“The” is used:

1. after a **new subject noun** has been introduced into a conversation
The accident I saw was very terrible! (it was already a topic)
2. when the subject noun is (a) **very clear** to the listener, or when there is
(b) **only one** of something
(a) *It's getting cold. Can you close the window.* (very clear)
(b) *Sherry is the oldest student here.* (there's only one oldest)
(b) **When long ago there was only one of something in a town or area.* (ex. bank, store, beach, doctor, airport, etc.)
I have to go to the market to get some milk.
3. with **uncountable nouns**
The police arrested one of the staff who stole some goods.

Choose A (An) or The for the blank spaces in the following sentences:

**(Sometimes both will be OK to use)*

1. We decided to rent a car while we were in Hawaii. The car was a Jeep.
2. Gerry bought a new diamond necklace for his wife. The necklace cost him a lot of money.
3. I'm feeling sick. Maybe I should go see a/the doctor.
4. I was too drunk to drive, so I called a taxi and an Uber. I was happy when the Uber came first. It's cheaper than a taxi.
5. Bob was in a car accident and was taken to a/the hospital in an ambulance.
6. Does anyone have a good topic for today's free conversation class?
7. I ordered a new set of curtains on the internet, but the curtains I ordered were too short for the windows at home. So, I returned them and ordered a new set of curtains.
8. Excuse me, can you recommend a good Chinese restaurant nearby?
9. I want to see the new 007 movie! I really hope it is better than the last 007 movie from 2 years ago.
10. Amy got a new bike for her birthday. The bike has a long seat and a horn. The seat is bright red and the horn is a very loud retro horn.
11. I found a bag in the only park near my house. The bag was a very expensive brand bag with a lot of money in it. I wonder who the owner is.
12. Susie really loves the second album by her favorite band. It's better than the first one.

13. Jenny is a regular customer at a/the sushi bar in the shopping mall next to her house. It is the most expensive sushi bar in the whole city.
14. The President of the United States is a man who is admired all over the world by almost everyone. But the president we have now is doing a terrible job!
15. A new student from the U. K. started at our school last week. The new student is a girl and she is the most beautiful girl I have ever seen! We have a big test this Friday, so I tried to ask her to join me at the school library to study for the test, but Tony, the most popular boy in school, asked her first. I was sad because he already has a girlfriend. Later, when I was studying alone at a table in the the library, the beautiful new student asked if she could study for the test with me! It was the best day ever!
16. While I was at a/the bank, a man came in wearing a mask and holding a gun. The mask was a black ski mask and the gun was a long rifle. The man told us all to lay on the ground, and told the bank tellers to put all of the money in a big duffel bag. Suddenly, the bank's alarm started making a loud noise. The gunman grabbed the heavy bag and ran to the bank doors. But the bag was too heavy and a/the strap broke. The money in the bag went flying everywhere. A few customers began grabbing the money and running for the exit doors. The angry gunman shouted at the customers to stop, but they didn't listen. When the gunman finally picked up all the money and tried to leave the bank, the police had arrived and were all around the building. The gunman knew that he couldn't escape the situation, so he dropped the money and gave himself to a police officer. It was a wild day at the bank!