

A movie -vs- THE (2 Answers)

*This sheet deals with knowing when to use **A** and when to use **The**, or when **neither one** should be used*

“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
(c) **calendar days** without the month name first
(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.*
(c) *Valentine's Day is on **the** 14th of February.*

*“A (An)” and “The” are **NOT** used:

1. before the proper names of things
I went to Toys 'R Us to buy my son's birthday present.
except for rivers, oceans, seas, straits, gulfs, mountain ranges, etc, which use **“the”
*Do you know that **The** Amazon is the longest river in the world?*
2. **“A”** is not used with uncountable nouns
*Someone stole (the) money from my wallet! (not **a** money)*

*Write **A(An)**, **The** or leave it blank (no **A** or **The**) in the spaces in the sentences below:*

(Sometimes both will **A (An) and **The** be OK to use)*

1. A super hurricane is moving through the Gulf of Mexico toward ___ Texas.
2. The Himalayas is a tall mountain range in ___ Asia with ___ Mt. Everest being the tallest mountain in the world.
3. Do you think it's possible to swim across the Atlantic Ocean? I know people have swum across ___ Lake Michigan before.
4. This is the first anniversary of our wedding, so I want to go to a really nice restaurant! The City Times newspaper said the new Italian one on the corner of 5th and Main is the best new place in ___ Los Angeles.
5. Kim is married to a doctor. The hospital he works at is in the center of town along the Columbia River. The name of the hospital is General Hospital. He is the chief ENT doctor in the children's section at the hospital.

6. Jim went to see a movie at the new movie theater on the 8th floor of the Smith Plaza Building on Main Street.
7. Let's go to the/a beach! I want to use the new surfboard I got on the 2nd.
8. Amy needs to take a cooking class because the dinner she cooked last Saturday was the worst I've ever eaten. The chicken was burnt and the veggies were as hard as rocks!
9. John's bags were stolen at the airport. When he called the police, a police officer said he needed to fill out a report saying what was stolen.
10. After I read a/the scary book, I had a really scary dream. In the dream, a group of zombies was trying to break down the/a door of the building I was hiding in. Just as a zombie was about to get me, I woke up from the dream with a loud scream.
11. Bart met a girl while taking *the train to work. The girl is a nurse at a clinic in the middle of town.
- *(We use the train here because Bart would generally take the same train to work every day. If he were on vacation in Italy and saw the girl, we would say a train.)*
12. I saw a movie on Friday the 13th. It was an exciting horror movie about a group of campers at a lake who are stalked and killed by a crazy killer. In a/the big surprise at the end of the movie, the killer was the mom of a boy from the camp!
13. I felt sick, so I went to a/the clinic. I thought I had the flu, but the doctor said I just had a cold. He wrote me a note for medicine and I went to the drug store in the clinic to get the medicine. I hope I get over the cold soon.
14. There was a huge snow storm over the weekend. All the power went out in the whole town. I used a flashlight to see in the dark, but the batteries soon died and I tripped and fell down the stairs. Then the power came back on.
15. I've decided to sail a boat across the Pacific Ocean. The trip should take a month to complete. I will start from Los Angeles, stop at the island of Oahu and finish in Tokyo Bay. I will bring a camera and photograph the whole trip. I hope it will be an exciting adventure!!
16. We are having a fantastic time in Jamaica! The island has a lot of things to do. The first thing we did was to take a scuba diving tour of an old sunken ship. The ship was a pirate ship from the 1600s! They say the old ship was sunk by an enormous hurricane, and that the gold on the ship is still somewhere on the bottom of the sea. At night we had a wonderful beach BBQ with a band and the most amazing food ever! The band had an open mike, so I could sing my favorite songs in front of a/the live band. I am the worst singer, but I got a lot of cheers from the other people at the BBQ! I even got a few tips! On the 23rd we will take a tour down into a/the volcano on a nearby island. I really hope the volcano doesn't wake up while we are inside it! I will send the pictures and videos of the scuba tour and of the BBQ tomorrow. Have a great night! See you soon!