

A movie – vs – THE movie (2)

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

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