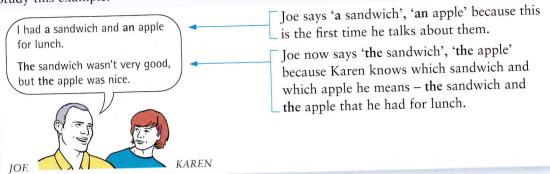
A/an and the

Study this example:



Compare a and the in these examples:

- □ A man and a woman were sitting opposite me. The man was American, but I think the woman was British.
- □ When we were on holiday, we stayed at a hotel. Sometimes we ate at the hotel and sometimes we went to a restaurant.

We use the when we are thinking of a specific thing. Compare a/an and the:

- □ Tim sat down on a chair. (perhaps one of many chairs in the room) Tim sat down on the chair nearest the door. (a specific chair)
- □ Paula is looking for a job. (not a specific job) Did Paula get the job she applied for? (a specific job)
- ☐ Have you got a car? (not a specific car) I cleaned the car yesterday. (= my car)

We use the when it is clear in the situation which thing or person we mean. For example, in a room we talk about the light / the floor / the ceiling / the door / the carpet etc.:

- □ Can you turn off the light, please? (= the light in this room)
- ☐ I took a taxi to the station. (= the station in that town)
- (in a shop) I'd like to speak to the manager, please. (= the manager of this shop)

In the same way, we say (go to) the bank, the post office:

☐ I have to go to the bank and then I'm going to the post office. (The speaker is usually thinking of a specific bank or post office.)

We also say (go to) the doctor / the dentist:

- ☐ Caroline isn't very well. She's gone to the doctor. (= her usual doctor)
- I don't like going to the dentist.

Compare the and a:

- ☐ I have to go to the bank today. Is there a bank near here?
- ☐ I don't like going to the dentist.
- My sister is a dentist.

We say 'once a week / three times a day / £1.50 a kilo' etc. :

- ☐ 'How often do you go to the cinema?' 'About once a month.'
- ☐ 'How much are those potatoes?' '£1.50 a kilo.'
- ☐ Helen works eight hours a day, six days a week.

72.1	1 Put in a/an or the.	
	1 This morning I boughta newspaper and magazine	newspaper is in
	my bag, but I can't remember where I put magazine.	manus newspaper is in
	2 I saw accident this morning. car crashed into	tree.
	driver of car wasn't hurt, but car was badly dama	
	3 There are two cars parked outside: blue one and g	
	one belongs to my neighbours; I don't know who owner of	
	4 My friends live in old house in small village. There	e is beautiful
	garden behind house. I would like to have garden	
72.2		
12.2	2 Put in a/an or the.	
	1 a This house is very nice. Has it got garden?	
	b It's a beautiful day. Let's sit in garden.	
	c I like living in this house, but it's a pity that garden is so	small.
	2 a Can you recommend good restaurant?	
	b We had dinner invery nice restaurant.	
	c We had dinner in best restaurant in town.	1.
	3 a She has French name, but in fact she's English, not Fren	ch.
	b What's name of that man we met yesterday?	
	c We stayed at a very nice hotel – I can't remember name 4 a There isn't airport near where I live.	
	real est different is 70 miles away.	
	g and the state of	
	c Excuse me, please. Can you tell me how to get to airport 5 a 'Are you going away next week?' 'No week after next	
	5 a 'Are you going away next week?' 'No, week after next b I'm going away for week in September.	
	c Gary has a part-time job. He works three mornings wee	1.
	c Gary has a part-time job. He works three mornings wee	K.
72.3	Put in a/an or the where necessary.	
	1 Would you like apple? Would you like	e an apple?
	2 How often do you go to dentist?	
	3 Could you close door, please?	
	5 Excuse me, where is bus station, please?	
	7 I'm just going to post office. I won't be long.	
	8 There were no chairs, so we sat on floor.	
	9 Have you finished with book I lent you?	
	10 My sister has just got job in bank in Manchester.	
	11 We live in small flat in city centre.	
	12 There's supermarket at end of street I live in.	
72.4	Answer these questions about yourself. Where possible, use the structur	e in Section D (once a
	week / three times a day etc.).	c in section b (once a
	1 How often do you go to the cinema? Three or four times a year	
	2 How much does it cost to hire a car in your country? About \$20 a	dau
	3 How often do you go to the cinema?	
	4 How often do you go away on holiday?	
	5 What's the usual speed limit in towns in your country?	
	6 How much sleep do you need?	
	7 How often do you go out in the evening?	
	8 How much television do you watch (on average)?	