

Copy Editing in Medical Journalism

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The Use of Articles

- ▶ in English Papers



1.2. The Use of Article (The) (cont)

- ▶ ***The*** with groups within society

When we talk about particular groups or people within

- ▶ society, we use *the* + adjective:

- ▶ *I think **the rich** should pay more tax and that **the poor** shouldn't pay any.*

- ▶ ***The young** need to be encouraged and supported in society.*



1.2. The Use of Article (The) (cont)

- ▶ ***The* with dates**
- ▶ When we say a specific date, we use *the*, but when we write it, we don't use *the*:
- ▶ *Speaking: 'I'll see you on **the** twenty fourth of May.'*
- ▶ *Writing: I'll see you on 24th May.*
- ▶ When we talk about months, we don't use *the*:
- ▶ *My birthday is in **September**.*
- ▶ ***May** is my favorite month of all.*



1.2. The Use of Article (The) (cont)

- ▶ **When we talk about seasons in general, we can use either *in* or *in the*. *In* without *the* is often used in more formal or literary contexts:**

These birds arrive in Britain in summer, and leave as the winter begins.

In the summer, we usually go to the mountains.

We rarely get snow in the winter.

- ▶ **When we talk about a specific season, we use *the*:**

The winter of 1947 was one of the coldest in Britain.

We'll definitely visit you in the summer. (meaning next summer)



1.2. The Use of Article (The) (cont)

- Nouns
 - ▶ ***The*** with Internet, radio and newspaper but mostly
 - ▶ not with TV
 - ▶ *I looked it up on **the** Internet.*
 - ▶ Not: ~~*on internet*~~
 - ▶ *She was on **the** radio once.*
 - ▶ Not: ~~*on radio*~~
 - ▶ *Did you see that story about parrots in **the** newspaper?*
 - ▶ Not: ~~*in newspaper*~~



1.2. The Use of Article (The) (cont)

- ▶ *There's usually nothing on TV. (TV means television)*
- ▶ *There's usually nothing on **the television**. (less common)*

- ▶ ***The with go to, be at, be in hospital, school, prison***
When we talk about the activity that happens in a building rather than about the building itself, we don't use *the*.



1.2. The Use of Article (The) (cont)

a/an versus *the*: Generic versus specific

- ▶ 1. Use *a / an* first time you mention something.
- ▶ 2. Use *the* on subsequent occasions (i.e. when the reader /listener already knows what you are talking about).
- ▶ 3. Use *a / an* to refer to something generic, *the* to something specific or something which the reader will already be familiar with.



1.2. The Use of Article (The) (cont)

Of Constructions

In most of the constructions with “of”, we need the before the noun.

The scores of the pretest

The box of stethoscopes

The door of the operation room

