

Unit 53: NOUNS WITHOUT THE OR A

Sometimes we do not use **the** or **a / an / some / any** at the beginning of a noun phrase; we use nothing at all.

1 With names

With most names of people, places and times (Unit 48).

2 Talking generally

We all need water to live.	NOT <i>the</i> water
Life is hard.	NOT <i>the</i> life
Doctors cure sick people.	NOT <i>the</i> doctors

BUT **The** water in this bottle is dirty. (Unit 52)
He has had **a** good life. (Unit 54)

3 Identifying

With mass nouns:	It's coffee .
and plural nouns;	We are students .
BUT with singular nouns:	I am a student / It is a cup.

4 Talking about meals

He has breakfast at six.	NOT <i>the</i> breakfast
Why don't you stay for lunch ?	NOT <i>the</i> lunch

5 Talking about illnesses

I think I've got flu .	NOT <i>the</i> flu
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6 After prepositions

When we are talking about:	
travelling	We went by bus . NOT <i>the</i> bus

some places He was in **bed**. NOT *the* bed
They went to **school** early. NOT *the* school
She's in **hospital** with a broken leg.
Also with **church, prison, university**

some times of day at night at midnight at sunrise
BUT in **the** morning in **the** afternoon

BUT use **the** if you are saying which.

We went by **the 7:45** bus.

She's in **the hospital on Yonge Street**.

NOTICE: **The**, or **a** / **any** / **some** / **any**, or nothing? (Unit 54)