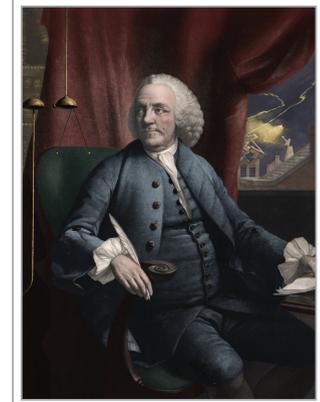


## Benjamin Franklin

**Benjamin Franklin** is famous as one of the Founding Fathers of the United States of America, but did you also know that ...

- Franklin was an inventor. His inventions included the lightning rod, the Franklin Stove and the Glass Armonica, which was a musical instrument.
- He set up the first public library and the first team of firefighters in Philadelphia.
- He believed that hard work, education and community spirit were the most important values for a society.
- He played the violin, the harp and the guitar. He also played chess and spoke Italian and French.
- As a US Ambassador, he lived in France during the Revolutionary War and had a home near the River Seine.



## Presentation

### *a/an*

Use *a/an*:

- when we first mention something: *He was the editor of a newspaper.*
- for a non-specific person or thing: *He had a home.*
- for a person or thing which is one of many: *The Glass Armonica was a musical instrument.*
- in the structure *as + a(n)+noun*: *As a US Ambassador, he ...*
- to say what someone does: *Franklin was an inventor.*

### *the*

Use *the* with:

- *play + musical instrument*: *play the violin, the harp and the guitar*
- the name of (a specific) invention: *the lightning rod, the Franklin Stove*
- professional bodies: *the police, the army, the media*
- deserts: *the Gobi, the Sahara*
- rivers: *the Amazon, the Seine*
- mountain ranges: *the Alps, the Himalayas*
- oceans and seas: *the Pacific, the Mediterranean*
- groups of countries or states: *the USA, the European Union*
- countries whose names are plural: *the Philippines, the Maldives*

- countries whose names include a political label: *the United Kingdom, the People's Republic of China*
- some buildings: *the White House, the Eiffel Tower*
- periods of time and history: *the holidays, the weekend, the sixties, the 18<sup>th</sup> century*
- geographical regions: *the Americas, the north*
- superlatives: *the best, the most important*
- titles: *the President, the Revolutionary War*

### No article

Use no article with:

- meals as part of a routine: *What do you have for breakfast?*
- *play + sports/games*: *play tennis, play chess*
- *by + transport*: *by car, by taxi, by train*
- towns and cities: *Paris, Boston*
- most countries: *France, New Zealand, South Africa*
- continents: *Asia, Africa, Europe, Antarctica*
- lakes and mountains: *Lake Geneva, Mount Everest*
- days of the week, months: *Monday, January*
- languages: *Italian, Japanese*
- school subjects: *Geography, History, Art*
- some common expressions: *to/at/from school/university/college/church/work; to/in(to)/out of hospital/prison; on holiday*

## Exercises

1 Choose the correct option: *a/an, the* or no article (-).

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 He was <i>a/an / the</i> inventor but he's more famous as <i>a / -</i> musician.  | 5 Would you like to play <i>a / -</i> tennis after <i>a / -</i> breakfast? |
| 2 I've bought <i>a / the</i> new car. It's <i>a / the</i> red one outside my house. | 6 That's <i>the / a</i> best play I've seen in ages.                       |
| 3 <i>- / The</i> President is making her speech at <i>- / the</i> lunchtime.        | 7 My favourite subject at <i>a / -</i> school is <i>a/n / -</i> Art.       |
| 4 <i>- / The</i> Amazon river goes through <i>- / the</i> Brazil.                   | 8 I'm <i>a / -</i> doctor and I work with <i>a / -</i> nurses.             |

2  Complete the text with *the, a/an* or no article (-). Then listen and check.

## Hedy Lamarr

## Actress and inventor

Hedy Lamarr was <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Austrian actress born in <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Vienna who went on to become one of <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ most famous Hollywood actresses of <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 20<sup>th</sup> century. Her real name was Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler. Her mother was <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ pianist and influenced her daughter's artistic skills as she studied <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ ballet and soon became <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ actress. She became well known in <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ European films and was called <sup>9</sup> ' \_\_\_\_\_ most beautiful woman in <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Europe'. In 1933, she married Fritz Mandl, but she left him <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ four years later. She went to <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ London and met Louis B. Mayer, <sup>13</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ film producer. He changed her name to Hedy Lamarr and she went to <sup>14</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Hollywood. Nowadays, Lamarr is well known for her many films from <sup>15</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ forties and fifties. However, she was also very intelligent and invented <sup>16</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ secret communications system in <sup>17</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 1942 which could change radio frequencies and protect radio messages. At the time, the technology was too advanced to help <sup>18</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ US Army in World War II, but since then it has been used by <sup>19</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ modern military and the mobile phone industry.

3 Cross out *the* in sentences 1–11 where it's not needed.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 What time do you normally eat <del>the</del> lunch.                              | 6 Are you going to the gym later?  |
| 2 <i>The Times of India</i> is the country's most widely-read English newspaper. ✓ | 7 What can we do about the poor in our society?  |
| 3 Have you finished with your copy of the <i>Newsweek</i> ? Can I read it?         | 8 My uncle is in the hospital with a broken leg.   |
| 4 The United Nations' headquarters is in the New York.                             | 9 The Italian Renaissance was famous for painters like Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci. |
| 5 Let's leave the car and go by the bus for a change.                              | 10 My favourite subject has always been the geography.                                     |
|  | 11 They say you can float and read a newspaper on the Dead Sea.                            |