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1

Are there any special times I should use *the*?

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a *In the USA this situation is totally different.*
b *In USA this situation is totally different.*
- 2 a *The table shows number of people working in Britain in 1976.*
b *The table shows the number of people working in Britain in 1976.*

We use *the*

- with countries or places where the name refers to a group of islands or states: *the United States, the Middle East, the United Arab Emirates, the UK*
- with superlatives: *the best, the longest, the highest*
- with ordinal numbers: *the first, the second, the third*
- when there is only one in the world: *the environment, the internet, the sun*
- to refer to the only one in this particular area: *the government, the police, the river*
- in the phrase: *the same as*

We don't use *the*

- with a single country or place: *America, England, China*
- to talk about something in general. We use the plural if we are talking about something in general; we use *the* to identify one specific example. Compare:
People with reading difficulties often have problems with numbers.
The number eight is considered lucky in some countries.

2 Correct the mistake below.

The hotel did not look same as the photo on your website.

The hotel

3 Complete the sentences below using the words in brackets. Decide whether or not to use *the*, and whether to use the plural.

- 1 The main advantage of is that it gives us access to information from all over the world. (*internet*)
- 2 My father has fished in all over Canada. (*river*)
- 3 Life in is very different from life in my country. (*Australia*)
- 4 According to the graph, of people moving into the city each year has more than doubled. (*number*)
- 5 The total figure for 1976 was as the total figure for 1982. (*same*)
- 6 Obesity is much more common in than in my country. (*USA*)
- 7 The graph shows that increase occurred in 1999. (*greatest*)
- 8 The astronauts on had a wonderful view of
(*moon, earth*)

2

Singular or plural?

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a There are several problem with this idea.
b There are several problems with this idea.
- 2 a Many charity organisations provide a great deal of help.
b Many charity organisation provides a great deal of help.

If you use a plural noun, you must use a plural verb. The verb must 'agree' with the noun:

*In my country **there are** very few **cars** that use **leaded petrol**.* (plural verb + plural noun)

*I like studying during the day but **my friend prefers** studying at night.* (singular noun + singular verb)

We use a plural noun with:

- plural verbs: *are, were, have, do, play, etc.:* **There are a lot of books on the table.**
- numbers greater than one: **30 cars, 100 students**
- *many:* **It is annoying that so many buses drive past because they are full.**
- *the number of:* **The number of buses on our roads has increased each year.**

☆ Note that we use a plural noun but a singular verb after *the number of*.

We use a singular noun with:

- singular verbs: *is, was, has, does, plays, etc.:* **There is only one bedroom in the flat.**
- *a/an or one:* **a car, one student**

☆ Note that some nouns can look plural but are singular (*news, mathematics*) and some nouns have a different form in the plural (*children, men, women, people*).

2 Correct the mistake below.

In 2015, the number of woman studying science increased dramatically.

In 2015,

3 Underline the correct word in each sentence.

- 1 In summer, *childs / children* often play together in the park until quite late.
- 2 The number of *men / man* studying science has decreased.
- 3 There are a lot of *persons / people* in my class.
- 4 I enjoyed studying mathematics a lot; I found *it / them* very interesting.
- 5 The news *were / was* very upsetting.
- 6 How many yoga *classes / class* do you have each day?
- 7 A *person / people* I really admire is my uncle.
- 8 My father *watch / watches* a lot of sport on TV.