

The Definite Article "the"

Exercise: Insert the article "the" where necessary, then provide a justification.

1. . . . youngest boy has just started going to . . . school; . . . eldest boy is at . . . college.
2. She lives on . . . top floor of an old house. When . . . wind blows, all . . . windows rattle.
3. . . . darkness doesn't worry . . . cats; . . . cats can see in . . . dark.
4. My little boys say that they want to be . . . spacemen, but most of them will probably end up in . . . less dramatic jobs.
5. Do you know . . . time?
Yes, . . . clock in . . . hall has just struck nine.
Then it isn't . . . time to go yet.
6. He was sent to . . . prison for . . . six months for . . . shop-lifting. When . . . six months are over he'll be released; . . . difficulty then will be to find . . . work.
Do you go to . . . prison to visit him?
7. I went to . . . school to talk to . . . headmistress. I persuaded her to let Ann give up . . . gymnastics and take . . . ballet lessons instead.
8. . . . ballet isn't much use for . . . girls; it is much better to be able to play . . . piano.
9. I am on... night duty. When you go to . . . bed, I go to . . . work.
10. Peter's at . . . office but you could get him on . . . phone. There's a telephone box just round . . . corner.
11. He got... bronchitis and was taken to . . . hospital. I expect they'll send him home at . . . end of . . . week.
Have you rung . . . hospital to ask how he is?
12. Ann's habit of riding a motorcycle up and down . . . road early in . . . morning annoyed . . . neighbours and in . . . end they took her to . . . court.
13. He first went to . . . sea in a Swedish ship, so as well as learning . . . navigation he had to learn . . . Swedish.
14. . . . family hotels are . . . hotels which welcome . . . parents and . . . children.
15. On . . . Sundays my father stays in . . . bed till ten o'clock, reading . . . Sunday papers.
16. Then he gets up, puts on . . . old clothes, has . . . breakfast and starts . . . work in . . . garden.
17. My mother goes to . . . church in . . . morning, and in . . . afternoon goes to visit . . . friends.
18. Like many women, she loves . . . tea parties and . . . gossip.



19. My parents have ... cold meat and ... salad for ... supper, ... winter and ... summer.
20. During ... meal he talks about ... garden and she tells him ... village gossip.
21. We have a very good train service from here to ... city centre and most people go to ... work by train. You can go by ... bus too, of course, but you can't get a season ticket on ... bus.
22. ... dead no longer need ... help. We must concern ourselves with ... living. We must build ... houses and ... schools and ... playgrounds.
23. I'd like to see ... Mr Smith please.
Do you mean ... Mr Smith who works in ... box office or ... other Mr Smith?
24. Did you come by ... air?
No, I came by ... sea. I had a lovely voyage on ... Queen Elizabeth II.
25. ... most of ... stories that ... people tell about ... Irish aren't true.
26. ... married couples with ... children often rent ... cottages by ... seaside for ... summer holidays. ... men hire boats and go for ... trips along ... coast; ... children spend ... day on ... beach and ... poor mothers spend ... most of ... time doing ... cooking and cleaning.
27. It's usually safe to walk on ... sand, but here, when ... tide is coming in, ... sand becomes dangerously soft. ... people have been swallowed up by it.
28. When ... Titanic was crossing ... Atlantic she struck an iceberg which tore a huge hole in her bow. ... captain ordered ... crew to help ... passengers into ... boats.
29. Everywhere ... man has cut down ... forests in order to cultivate ... ground, or to use ... wood as ... fuel or as ... building material.
30. But ... interference with ... nature often brings ... disaster. ... tree-felling sometimes turns ... fertile land into a dustbowl.
31. ... people think that ... lead is ... heaviest metal, but ... gold is heavier.
32. Our air hostess said, "... rack is only for ... light articles. ... heavy things such as ... bottles must be put on ... floor."
33. ... windows are supposed to let in ... light; but ... windows of this house are so small that we have to have ... electric light on all ... time.
34. There will always be a conflict between ... old and ... young. ... young people want ... change but ... old people want ... things to stay ... same.
35. ... power tends to corrupt and ... absolute power corrupts absolutely.
36. You can fool some of ... people all ... time, and all ... people some of ... time; but you cannot fool all ... people all ... time.