

SPECIFICATIONS FOR USING THE ARTICLE *THE*:

Do not use **THE** before:

Names of most countries / territories: Italy, Mexico, Bolivia. However, there are exceptions: the Netherlands, the Dominican Republic, the Philippines, the United States, the United Arab Emirates, etc.

Names of cities, towns, states or provinces: Seoul, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Ambato, Pichincha, etc.

Names of lakes and bays: Lake Erie, except with a group of lakes, like the Great Lakes or the Finger Lakes.

Names of streets: Washington Street, Main Street, Roosevelt Blvd.

Names of mountains: Mount Everest, Mount Fuji, Mount Cotopaxi, except with ranges of mountains, like the Andes or the Rockies or unusual names like the Matterhorn.

Names of continents: Asia, Europe

Names of islands: Easter Island, Maui, Key West, except with island chains like the names the Galapagos Islands, the Canary Islands, the Hebrides, the Aleutians, or the Hawaiian Islands

Possessives: Mary's cat, Jim's car, Harry's bar → not, the Mary's cat

Do use **THE** before:

Names of rivers, oceans, and seas: the Nile River, the Black Sea, the Pacific Ocean

Points on the globe: the Equator, the North Pole, the South Pole

Geographical areas: the Middle East, the West

Deserts, forests, gulfs, and peninsulas: the Sahara, the Persian Gulf, the Black Forest