

# WHEN TO USE “THE” AND WHEN NOT TO USE “THE”

*The* is NEVER used for GENERAL CONCEPTS.

→ Love is important for every person.

→ Open communication is necessary in relationship.

*The* is used for general nouns mentioned for the first time.

Part A: Do you have a pen I can borrow?

Part B: Sure. Do you want a red one or a blue one?

But when both speakers know which item is being referred to, then *the* is used.

→ I'm sorry, but I lost the blue pen I borrowed from you yesterday.

*Directions: Using these aforementioned rules, fill in the blanks with A, THE, or NOTHING as you see fit.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ economic situation in Ecuador worries many people. Many citizens are asking when \_\_\_\_\_ government will do something about \_\_\_\_\_ problem.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ inflation is a problem in many countries.
3. Part A: Was \_\_\_\_\_ movie that you saw last night good?  
Part B: Yes! I love \_\_\_\_\_ adventure movies.  
Part A: Me too. What is \_\_\_\_\_ best adventure movie you have ever seen?
4. My uncle is moving to \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. to hopefully find \_\_\_\_\_ job. He doesn't have \_\_\_\_\_ job yet, but he is hoping that his friends will help him find one.
5. My academic advisor told me that I needed to take \_\_\_\_\_ humanities class. He said I could take \_\_\_\_\_ class in literature, art, sociology, or history.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ war has been a problem throughout history. \_\_\_\_\_ people have always been devastated by war.
7. Hey there! Do you want to borrow \_\_\_\_\_ good book? \_\_\_\_\_ book

that I have just finished reading was excellent! I couldn't put it down.

8. Most people did well on \_\_\_\_\_ Midterm Exam. However, all of you need to work on your writing skills. \_\_\_\_\_ essays that you wrote had many errors.
9. Sociologists and anthropologists agree that \_\_\_\_\_ religion or \_\_\_\_\_ spirituality has played a part in every culture that has ever existed. However, \_\_\_\_\_ form that every group gives to its spirituality may differ.
10. Part A: How is your class going?  
Part B: Pretty good. \_\_\_\_\_ teacher tries hard to keep us interested in class material.
11. In order to complete \_\_\_\_\_ requirements for this class, every student will have to do \_\_\_\_\_ practicum. \_\_\_\_\_ practicum can be chosen by the student him/herself, or \_\_\_\_\_ student can ask me for suggestions.