

Benjamin Franklin

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

- His inventions included the lightning rod, the Franklin Stove, the Glass Armonica (a type of musical instrument), as well as bifocals, and swim fins!
- 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.
- He was the US Ambassador to France during the Revolutionary War and had a home near the River Seine.



Presentation

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*
- an adjective to talk about a group of people: *the rich, the guilty*
- professional bodies: *the police, the army, the media*
- words about the weather and climate: *the wind, the rain*
- 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 US, 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 18th century, the Enlightenment*
- geographical regions: *the Americas, the north, the coast, the mountains, the countryside, the world*

- superlatives: *the best, the most important*
- titles: *the President, the Revolutionary War*
- newspapers: *The Pennsylvania Gazette, The Times*
- some common expressions: *go to the theater/bank/movies/gym/store/city center*

No article

You use no article with:

- meals as part of a routine: *What do you have for breakfast?*
- *play* + sports/games: *play tennis, play chess*
- *by* + transportation: *by car, by taxi, by train*
- possessive 's: *Sally's house, Franklin's invention*
- 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 and years: *Monday, Tuesday, January, February, 1991, 2001*
- languages: *Italian, Japanese*
- school subjects: *geography, history, art*
- magazines: *Vogue, Hello!*
- some common expressions: *to/at/from school/college/church/work; to/in(to)/out of hospital/prison; on vacation*

1 Complete the text with *the* or no article (Ø).

Hedy Lamarr

Actress and inventor

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



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

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| 1 What time do you normally eat the 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 favorite subject has always been the geography. |
| | 11 They say you can float and read a newspaper on the Dead Sea. |

3 Complete these sentences in your own words. Use *the* or no article in your answers.

- 1 The most famous place to visit in my country is
- 2 I can play
- 3 The invention of was probably the most important of the last century.
- 4 My country is part of the continent of
- 5 In my country, everyone has to study in school.
- 6 My favorite meal of the day is