

# *Pronouns*




# Subject and Object Pronouns




## 1 Form

|                  | SINGULAR  |            |            |            |           | PLURAL    |            |             |
|------------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| subject pronouns | <i>I</i>  | <i>you</i> | <i>he</i>  | <i>she</i> | <i>it</i> | <i>we</i> | <i>you</i> | <i>they</i> |
| object pronouns  | <i>me</i> | <i>you</i> | <i>him</i> | <i>her</i> | <i>it</i> | <i>us</i> | <i>you</i> | <i>them</i> |

## 2 Use

We use the pronouns *I/me*, *you/you*, *he/him*, *she/her*, *we/us* and *they/them* for people. We use subject pronouns before the verb. We use object pronouns after the verb.

| SUBJECT                                                                                                                    | VERB                                                                                                | OBJECT                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br><i>Christina</i><br>↓<br><i>She</i> | <br><i>likes</i> | <br><i>David.</i><br>↓<br><i>him.</i> |

| SUBJECT                                                                                                                   | VERB                                                                                                  | OBJECT                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br><i>Michael</i><br>↓<br><i>He</i> | <br><i>loves</i> | <br><i>the children.</i><br>↓<br><i>them.</i> |

# Subject and Object Pronouns

## 3 Things and animals

We use the pronouns *it*, *they* and *them* for things and animals:

*'Can I put these 5p coins in the ticket machine?' 'No, it doesn't accept them.'*

*There's a fox in our garden. It eats the food from the bins.*

But if we know the sex of an animal we can also use *he/she/him/her*:

*Jack has a cat called Fluffy. She is three years old.*

# Subject and Object Pronouns

## 4 Object pronouns after prepositions and *be*

We also use object pronouns

- after prepositions (e.g. *near, to, of*):

*Mr and Mrs Jenson live near us.*

*Can you give this letter to him?*

*'Which colour do you prefer?' 'I like both of them.'*

- after the verb *be*:

*'Who's that?' 'It's me.'*

*That's us in the photo.*

# Possessive forms of Nouns

## 1 Noun + 's or '

We use noun + 's or ' to show that something belongs to someone.

|                                  |        |                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| singular nouns                   | add 's | <i>John → John's (car)</i><br><i>James → James's (phone)</i><br><i>my mother → my mother's (garden)</i>  |
| plural nouns that end in s       | add '  | <i>boys → boys' (school)</i><br><i>birds → birds' (eggs)</i><br><i>parents → parents' (house)</i>        |
| plural nouns that don't end in s | add 's | <i>children → children's (books)</i><br><i>men → men's (clothes)</i><br><i>people → people's (names)</i> |

# Possessive forms of Nouns

## 1 Noun + 's or '

We use noun + 's or ' for people and animals:

*I'm using my **friend's** mobile phone.* (the phone belongs to my friend)

***Clara's** brother is **Marco's** teacher. What is your **cat's** name? This is my **parents'** car.*

We can use noun + 's or ' alone

- when the meaning is clear:

*'Is this **Lucy's** mobile phone?' 'No, it's **Amanda's.**'* (Amanda's phone)

*That isn't our cat. It's our **neighbours'**.* (our neighbours' cat)

- for people's homes:

*Shall we go to **Sally's**?* (Sally's house)

- to talk about some shops and services:

*I need to go to the **doctor's**.*

*Are you going to the **butcher's**?*

# Apostrophe

## Noun + 's or '

We usually use noun + 's (or ' only) for people and animals: *It's the children's dinner.*  
*Where are the cats' bowls? John's wife's dress is lovely.*

If there are two people, we usually only add 's to the second person:  
*What do you think of Matt and Jane's new house?*

We can use noun + 's without another noun

- when the meaning is clear: *'Can I borrow your pen?' 'It's Steve's. Ask him.'*
- for people's homes: *There's a party after the exam at Abbi's.*
- for some businesses and services: *Lester is at the dentist's.*

*Can you buy me some chocolate at the newsagent's?*

We can add 's / ' to a period of time:

*a week's holiday* (= a holiday of a week) *six months' travelling yesterday's news*

# Possessive forms of Nouns

## 2 of + noun

We usually use *of* + noun for things and places:

*We visited the centre of Madrid. What happens at the end of the film?*

*What's the size of the screen on your TV? What's the height of Mount Everest?*



We don't usually use *of* + noun for people:

*X He is the brother of Clare. ✓ He is Clare's brother.*



We don't usually use noun + 's or ' for things:

*X I didn't see the film's end. ✓ I didn't see the end of the film.*



# Apostrophe

## of + noun

We usually use *of* + noun for things and places:

*Would you like a map of the city? I don't know the time of the next train.*

With cities, countries and organisations, we can use 's or *of*:

*London's parks are very pleasant. / The parks of London are very pleasant.*

*China's economy is growing fast. / The economy of China is growing fast.*

*That needs the World Bank's approval. / That needs the approval of the World Bank.*

We can use *of* + noun and noun + 's together:

*It's the Lord Mayor of London's residence. She's the Head of Marketing's wife.*

⚠ We don't usually use *of* + noun for people:

*✗ He's the uncle of Joan. ✓ He's Joan's uncle.*

We don't usually use noun + 's for things:

*✗ I've broken my shoe's heel. ✓ I've broken the heel of my shoe.*

We often leave out *the* in *time of (the) day/night/year*, especially in spoken English:

*I'm usually working at this time of day.*

# Possessive Adjectives and Pronouns

## 1 Form

|                       | SINGULAR    |              |            |             |            | PLURAL      |              |               |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| subject pronouns      | <i>I</i>    | <i>you</i>   | <i>he</i>  | <i>she</i>  | <i>it</i>  | <i>we</i>   | <i>you</i>   | <i>they</i>   |
| possessive adjectives | <i>my</i>   | <i>your</i>  | <i>his</i> | <i>her</i>  | <i>its</i> | <i>our</i>  | <i>your</i>  | <i>their</i>  |
| possessive pronouns   | <i>mine</i> | <i>yours</i> | <i>his</i> | <i>hers</i> | –          | <i>ours</i> | <i>yours</i> | <i>theirs</i> |

# Possessive Adjectives and Pronouns

## 2 Possessive adjectives

Possessive adjectives tell us who things belong to. We put them before a noun:

*Jenny is Christina and Michael Brown's daughter. → Jenny is **their** daughter.*

*Jenny's brother is called David. → **Her** brother is called David.*

## 3 Possessive pronouns

We can use **possessive pronouns** instead of a possessive adjective + noun:

*Is that **your** mobile phone? → Is that **yours**?*

*No, it isn't **my** mobile phone. → No, it isn't **mine**.*

*It's **Clara's** mobile phone. → It's **hers**.*

*Can we borrow **your** umbrella? We forgot to bring **ours**. (our umbrella)*



We don't use *a*, *an*, *the* or **apostrophes** (') with possessive adjectives and pronouns:

*✗ ~~That pen is her's.~~ ✓ That pen is **hers**.*

*✗ ~~This bedroom is the mine.~~ ✓ This bedroom is **mine**.*

# *Possessive Adjectives and Pronouns*

## **4** *Whose?*

We often use *Whose?* instead of 'Who does it belong to?':

*'Whose phone is this?' 'It's Clara's.'*

*'Whose are these?' 'I don't know – they aren't mine.'*

*This, That,*  
*Those, These,*

# *This, That, Those, These,*

## 1 Form

|          | ADJECTIVE (BEFORE A NOUN)                                            | PRONOUN (WITHOUT A NOUN)                             |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| singular | <i>This coat is expensive.<br/>That building is beautiful.</i>       | <i>This is expensive.<br/>That is beautiful.</i>     |
| plural   | <i>These coats are expensive.<br/>Those buildings are beautiful.</i> | <i>These are expensive.<br/>Those are beautiful.</i> |

We use a singular verb after *this/that* and a plural verb after *these/those*.

# *This, That, Those, These,*

## 2 Near or far?

We use *this* and *these* to talk about things that are near us:

*Excuse me. Is **this** seat free?* (the seat near us)

*I need some new glasses – **these** are broken.* (the glasses I am holding)

We use *that* and *those* for things that are not near us:

*Look at the sky – **that's** the North Star.*

*I'd like some pens – how much are **those** on the top shelf?*

# *This, That, Those, These,*

## 3 Now or then?

We also use *this/these* to talk about now or a time that is near us:

***This** lesson is interesting.* (the lesson we are in now)

*I hate **these** cold winter days.* (the winter days we have now)

*I'm doing a lot of exercise **these** days.* (at the present time)

*What are you doing **this** evening?* (It's the morning or afternoon now.)

We use *that/those* to talk about a situation in the past:

*What did you think of **that** lesson yesterday?*

*There were no cars in **those** days.* (at a time in the past)



# *This, That, Those, These,*

## **4** *this is/is that ... ?*

We use *this is ...* to introduce someone:

*Peter, this is Jane.*

We use *this is ...* and *is that ... ?* on the phone:

*'Hello, can I speak to Joan?' 'This is Joan speaking.'*

*'Is that Angela?' 'No, she isn't here at the moment.'*

***To Be in Present***  
***tense***

# “Ways to speak about the present”

## Present Simple Use:

### 1 Form

| POSITIVE         |            |                 | SHORT FORM             |                   |
|------------------|------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>I</i>         | <i>am</i>  | <i>English.</i> | <i>I'm</i>             | <i>from Cuba.</i> |
| <i>He/She/It</i> | <i>is</i>  |                 | <i>He's/She's/It's</i> |                   |
| <i>We</i>        | <i>are</i> |                 | <i>We're</i>           |                   |
| <i>You</i>       | <i>are</i> |                 | <i>You're</i>          |                   |
| <i>They</i>      | <i>are</i> |                 | <i>They're</i>         |                   |

# “Ways to speak about the present”

## Present Simple Use:

### 1 Form

| NEGATIVE         |                |                 | SHORT FORM                                           |                |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>I</i>         | <i>am not</i>  | <i>British.</i> | <i>I'm not</i>                                       | <i>French.</i> |
| <i>He/She/It</i> | <i>is not</i>  |                 | <i>He/She/It isn't</i><br><i>He's/She's/It's not</i> |                |
| <i>We</i>        | <i>are not</i> |                 | <i>We aren't/We're not</i>                           |                |
| <i>You</i>       | <i>are not</i> |                 | <i>You aren't/You're not</i>                         |                |
| <i>They</i>      | <i>are not</i> |                 | <i>They aren't/They're not</i>                       |                |

**NATURAL ENGLISH** We use *short forms* (*I'm, I'm not, You're*, etc.) when we are speaking to someone and in informal writing.

# “Ways to speak about the present”

## Present Simple Use:

### 2 Use

We use the verb *be*

- to describe people and things:

*This is my brother. We aren't teachers, we're students.*

*My car is Japanese. My sisters are both married.*

# “Ways to speak about the present”

## Present Simple Use:



✗ ~~I not married.~~ ✓ I'm not married.

- to talk about our feelings or ideas:

*We're all tired and hungry. This book is boring. His shows are very popular.*

- to describe position and time:

*My flat's close to the city centre. It's two o'clock.*



Use *be* not *have*

✗ ~~I have cold.~~ ✓ I'm cold.

✗ ~~I have hungry.~~ ✓ I'm hungry.

✗ ~~He has six years old.~~ ✓ He's six years old.

# “Ways to speak about the present”

## Present Simple Use:

### 1 Form

| Yes / No QUESTIONS |                  |              | SHORT ANSWERS             |                                                      |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Am</i>          | <i>I</i>         |              | <i>Yes, I am.</i>         | <i>No, I'm not.</i>                                  |
| <i>Is</i>          | <i>he/she/it</i> |              | <i>Yes, he/she/it is.</i> | <i>No, he/she/it isn't. No, he's/she's/it's not.</i> |
| <i>Are</i>         | <i>we</i>        | <i>late?</i> | <i>Yes, we are.</i>       | <i>No, we aren't/we're not.</i>                      |
| <i>Are</i>         | <i>you</i>       |              | <i>Yes, you are.</i>      | <i>No, you aren't/you're not.</i>                    |
| <i>Are</i>         | <i>they</i>      |              | <i>Yes, they are.</i>     | <i>No, they aren't/they're not.</i>                  |

### Wh- QUESTIONS

*Where am I?*

*Who are you?*

*What is ('s) your job?*

*How old is ('s) your brother?*

# “Ways to speak about the present”

## Present Simple Use:

### 2 Use

We use *be* to ask about

- names, nationality, jobs and family:

*What's your name? Is Sandra Canadian? Are they doctors? Is she married?*

- feelings:

*Are you hungry? How are you? Is she happy?*

- position and time:

*Where is it? Is your house near here? What time is it? Am I late?*



In questions, we put the verb *be* before the subject of the sentence:

*X You are hungry? ✓ Are you hungry?*

*X What your job is? ✓ What's your job?*





*To Be*  
*in Past Tense*

## Past Simple of be Use:

### 1. Form:

#### POSITIVE

*I/He/She/It*

*was*

*French.*

*We/You/They*

*were*

#### NEGATIVE

*I/He/She/It*

*was not*

#### SHORT FORM

*(wasn't)*

*there.*

*We/You/They*

*were not*

*(weren't)*

## Past Simple of be Use:

### 1. Form:

| QUESTIONS                      | SHORT ANSWERS                                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Was I/he/she/it there?</i>  | <i>Yes, I/he/she/it was. No, I/he/she/it wasn't (was not).</i>    |
| <i>Were we/you/they there?</i> | <i>Yes, we/you/they were. No, we/you/they weren't (were not).</i> |

## Past Simple of be Use:

### 2. Use:

We use the past simple tense of *be* to talk about people and situations in the past.

We often use dates and times with *was* and *were*:

*Deborah Kerr and Ingrid Bergman were film stars in the 1950s.*

*Was he in the beginners' class last year?*

*It wasn't very cold in December.*

*Have Got, Have*

# 1 Form

| POSITIVE      |                |           | NEGATIVE      |                        |           |
|---------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|------------------------|-----------|
| I/We/You/They | 've (have) got | a garden. | I/We/You/They | haven't (have not) got | a garden. |
| He/She/It     | 's (has) got   |           | He/She/It     | hasn't (has not) got   |           |

| Yes / No QUESTIONS |                   |     |           | SHORT ANSWERS |                   |       |     |                   |          |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----|-----------|---------------|-------------------|-------|-----|-------------------|----------|
| Have               | I/we/<br>you/they | got | a garden? | Yes,          | I/we/<br>you/they | have. | No, | I/we/<br>you/they | haven't. |
| Has                | he/she/it         |     |           |               | he/she/it         | has.  |     | he/she/it         | hasn't.  |

| Wh- QUESTIONS     |      |      |      |
|-------------------|------|------|------|
| What kind of car  | have | you  | got? |
| What colour hair  | has  | she  |      |
| How many children | have | they |      |

## NATURAL ENGLISH

We usually use the short forms of *have got* ('ve got/'s got).

## 2 Use

We use *have got*

- to talk about possessions (things that belong to you):  
*I've got a good camera. He's got two cars. Have they got a lot of money?*
- to talk about your family or friends:  
*I've got two sisters. Has she got any friends at her new school?*
- to describe what somebody looks like:  
*I've got dark hair and brown eyes.*
- to talk about illnesses:  
*I've got a cold/headache/stomachache. Has the baby got a temperature?*



# 1 Form

| POSITIVE             |             |                   | NEGATIVE             |                                |                  |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>I/We/You/They</i> | <i>have</i> | <i>dark hair.</i> | <i>I/We/You/They</i> | <i>don't (do not) have</i>     | <i>any hair.</i> |
| <i>He/She/It</i>     | <i>has</i>  |                   | <i>He/She/It</i>     | <i>doesn't (does not) have</i> |                  |

| Yes/No QUESTIONS |                      |             |                  | SHORT ANSWERS |                      |                 |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Do</i>        | <i>I/we/you/they</i> | <i>have</i> | <i>a camera?</i> | <i>Yes,</i>   | <i>I/we/you/they</i> | <i>do.</i>      |
|                  |                      |             |                  | <i>No,</i>    |                      | <i>don't.</i>   |
| <i>Does</i>      | <i>he/she/it</i>     |             |                  | <i>Yes,</i>   | <i>he/she/it</i>     | <i>does.</i>    |
|                  |                      |             |                  | <i>No,</i>    |                      | <i>doesn't.</i> |

| Wh- QUESTIONS           |             |            |              |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| <i>What kind of car</i> | <i>do</i>   | <i>you</i> | <i>have?</i> |
| <i>What colour hair</i> | <i>does</i> | <i>she</i> | <i>have?</i> |

## 2 *have = have got*

We can use *have* in the same way as we use *have got*

- to talk about possessions:

*Nicolas Cage **has** an island in the Caribbean. Do you **have** a lot of money?  
Switzerland **doesn't have** a coast.*

- to talk about your friends or family:

*Nicolas **has** a son. How many children **do you have**?*

- to describe what somebody looks like:

*I **have** dark hair and brown eyes.*

- to talk about illnesses:

*I **have** a cold/headache. Do you **have** a temperature?*



*✗ ~~I have eighteen years old.~~ ✓ I am eighteen years old.*



When *have = have got*, we don't use it in continuous tenses:

*✗ ~~I'm having two sisters.~~ ✓ I have two sisters.*

### 3 *have* for doing things

We also use *have* to talk about things we do. We cannot use *have got* in this way:

|               |                                                                      |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>have</i> + | <i>a shower/a bath/a wash/a shave/a haircut</i>                      |
|               | <i>breakfast/lunch/dinner/a meal/a snack/a drink/a cup of coffee</i> |
|               | <i>fun/a good time/a party/a holiday/a celebration</i>               |
|               | <i>an argument/an accident/a bad time</i>                            |

We can use *have* for doing things in the present continuous or the present simple:  
*Listen to that noise! The neighbours **are having** a party! I always **have** a good time at parties.*

**Verb**

**DO**

## 1 *make or do?*

We often use the verb *make* to talk about creating or producing something:  
*Mercedes cars are made in Germany.*

*Who's making lunch today?*

We often use *do* to talk about any activity:

*What do you usually do at the weekends?*

*I'm afraid I haven't done the report yet.*

Here are some common words we use with *make* and *do*:

*make*

*a meal breakfast lunch dinner a phone call a noise a mistake  
an appointment an arrangement a suggestion a plan the bed a copy*

*do*

*the shopping the gardening your homework an exercise a test an exam  
the housework the cleaning the washing the cooking the dishes*

***Don't make any noise – I'm doing my homework.***

***On Saturday mornings I do the cleaning and my wife makes lunch.***

1

## GRAMMAR IN USE

Choose the correct words in *italics* in the advertisement.

4.56 Listen and check.

## HouseMate X2

The robot that (0) *makes* / *does* all your housework!

The HouseMate X2 is a new kind of robot.

It (1) *makes* / *does* all the jobs that you hate!It can (2) *make* / *do* the beds every morning and then (3) *make* / *do* the washing.Then it will (4) *make* / *do* your lunch for you.And afterwards it will (5) *make* / *do* the dishes!It can even (6) *make* / *do* phone calls,(7) *make* / *take* messages and(8) *make* / *take* appointments. And, believe it or not, it can (9) *make* / *take* care of children!

The HouseMate X2

is (10) *made* / *done* in Japan.**Only \$495**

## 1 *make and do*

We often use the verb *make* to talk about creating something or causing something to happen.

*What do they **make** in that factory?*

*Have you **made a decision** about the job yet?*

We often use *do* to talk about carrying out or completing any activity:

*Are you **doing** anything exciting at the weekend? All*




**make +**

an appointment the bed a copy a decision  
friends a meal (lunch, dinner, etc.) a mess  
a mistake money a noise a phone call  
a plan progress a promise a suggestion

**do +**

a course an exam/test (an) exercise/homework  
the housework (the ironing, shopping, etc.)  
research someone a favour well/badly  
your hair/make-up

*The workmen have **made a real mess** of the roads. Are we **making** enough **money** at the moment?  
I **do** a lot of **exercise** as I want to get fit. That's the last time I **do you a favour!***

 We *do the shopping* (usually for food and other regular items) but we *go shopping* (usually a specific shopping trip):

*Will you get some biscuits when you do the shopping?*

*I'm going shopping for some new shoes this afternoon.*

# DO vs. MAKE

The difference between Do and Make

## Work, Jobs and Tasks

Do the housework  
Do your homework  
Do a good job  
Do your chores

DO

## Product Material / Origin

Made of gold  
Made from grapes  
Made in China  
Made by me

MAKE

## Non-Specific Activities

Do something  
Do nothing  
Do anything  
Do everything

DO

## Produce a Reaction

Make your eyes water  
Make you happy  
Make you sleepy  
Make you smile

MAKE

## Replace Verb when Obvious

Do your hair  
Do the dishes  
Do the exam  
Do the laundry

DO

## Plans and Decisions

Make arrangements  
Make a decision  
Make a choice  
Make a plan

MAKE

## Food, Drink and Meals

Make a cake  
Make breakfast  
Make dinner  
Make a cup of coffee

MAKE

## Speaking and Sounds

Make a noise  
Make a comment  
Make a speech  
Make a suggestion

MAKE

# *ARTICLES*

**A, An, The, 0**

# 1 Form

We use *a* and *an* before different sounds:

|             | BEFORE WORDS THAT BEGIN WITH                          | EXAMPLES                                       |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <i>a</i> +  | a consonant sound, e.g. <i>b, c, l, m, p, s, t</i>    | <i>a cake, a sports teacher, a hat</i>         |
|             | <i>u</i> or <i>eu</i> , when they sound like <i>y</i> | <i>a uniform /u:/, a European /ʊəl/ city</i>   |
| <i>an</i> + | a vowel sound: <i>a, e, i, o, u</i>                   | <i>an apple, an interesting book, an uncle</i> |
|             | <i>h</i> when you do not pronounce the <i>h</i>       | <i>an hour, an honest man</i>                  |

## 2 Use

We use *a/an*

|                                                 |                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| to talk about one person or thing               | <i>We saw a good film at the cinema on Saturday.<br/>Do you live in a house or a flat?</i> |
| to describe a person or thing with an adjective | <i>She's a nice person.<br/>Is that an interesting book?</i>                               |
| to talk about jobs                              | <i>My uncle is a dentist.<br/>I want to be an architect.</i>                               |
| to mean 'one' with fractions and numbers        | <i>one and a half, a hundred, a thousand, a million</i>                                    |
| to mean 'each' in measurements                  | <i>twice a day, once a month, four times a year,<br/>80 kilometres an hour</i>             |

We DON'T use *a/an*

- before plural nouns:

*I like books about other countries.*

*Children are welcome in this restaurant.*

*Do you like adventure films?*

- before uncountable nouns:

*Do you take sugar?*

*Furniture is expensive these days.*

*Teenagers often listen to music.*

# 1 Pronunciation of *the*

We pronounce *the* with /ə/ before **consonant** sounds (*b, d, k, t, s*, etc.):

*the book, the sports teacher*

We pronounce *the* with /i:/ before **vowel** sounds (*a, e, i, o, u*):

*the apple, the English teacher*



## 2 Use of *the*

We use *the* when there is only one of something:

*The sun is very hot today.* (There's only one sun.)

*Jamie's in the garden.* (We only have one garden.)

*Don't forget to lock the front door.* (There's only one front door on our house.)

*Can I see the manager?* (There's only one manager.)

We DON'T use *the* before plural or uncountable nouns when we talk about things or people in general:

*I like children.* (children in general)

*Milk is good for you.* (milk in general)

Compare:

*I like the children.* (the children in that family)

*The milk tastes horrible.* (the milk in that bottle)

### 3 *the* or *a/an*?

We use *the*, not *a* or *an*, when it is clear which person or thing we are talking about. Compare:

*I need to get a bus to the station.*  
(I don't know which bus.)

*The number 2 bus goes to the station.*  
(We know which bus.)

*Let's go to a restaurant this evening.*  
(There is more than one restaurant.)

*Let's go to the restaurant in Dean Street.*  
(We know which restaurant.)

*Would you like a biscuit?*  
(There is more than one biscuit.)

*Jason had the last biscuit!*  
(We know which biscuit.)

We use *a* or *an* when we use a noun for the first time, and *the* when we use it again:

*I bought a new coat and a dress yesterday. The coat is really warm.*

*'There's a really nice new café in the village.'*

*'Oh, do you mean the café with tables outside? Yes, it's great.'*

## Words with *the*

We usually use *the* with

|                                                        |                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| times of the day                                       | <i>in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening (but at night)</i>                            |
| musical instruments                                    | <i>I play the piano. Does she play the guitar?</i>                                                |
| names of newspapers                                    | <i>The Times, The Sun, The New York Times</i>                                                     |
| the media                                              | <i>the radio, I saw it on the Internet.</i>                                                       |
| shops/places in a town                                 | <i>the bank, the cinema, the post office, the supermarket, the chemist's, the station</i>         |
| names of museums, cinemas, theatres, hotels            | <i>the Guggenheim Museum, the Odeon Cinema, the Drury Lane Theatre, the Savoy Hotel</i>           |
| locations                                              | <i>on the left/right, in the middle, on the coast/border, in the east/north/south/west</i>        |
| countries with plural names and with Republic, Kingdom | <i>the Netherlands, the United States, the People's Republic of China, the United Kingdom</i>     |
| names of oceans, seas, rivers, mountain ranges         | <i>the Pacific Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea, the Thames, the Amazon, the Himalayas, the Andes</i> |

We don't usually use *the* with *watch TV*:

## Words without *the*, *a* or *an*

We don't use *the*, *a* or *an* with

|                                   |                                                               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| times, days and months            | <i>at midday, on Monday, in January</i>                       |
| meals                             | <i>What time is breakfast?</i>                                |
| sports                            | <i>basketball, tennis, football</i>                           |
| transport and communication       | <i>by train, by bus, by email, by phone</i>                   |
| languages, school subjects        | <i>English, Spanish, Turkish, art, history</i>                |
| most magazines                    | <i>Newsweek, Hello Magazine</i>                               |
| roads, streets, squares and parks | <i>Park Lane, Oxford Street, Times Square, Central Park</i>   |
| airports and stations             | <i>Manchester Airport, Victoria Bus Station, Penn Station</i> |
| most countries and continents     | <i>Spain, Japan, Turkey, Australia, Asia, Europe, Africa</i>  |
| cities, towns and states          | <i>Paris, Sydney, Johannesburg, California</i>                |
| mountains, hills and lakes        | <i>Mount Everest, Lake Ontario</i>                            |
| names and titles                  | <i>John, Susan, Mr Smith, Professor Sinclair, Uncle Jack</i>  |

We don't use *the*, *a* or *an* for: *at home, at work, in bed*

Compare:

*He plays **the** guitar.* but *He plays football.*

*She works **at the** bank.* but *She works at Manchester Airport.*