

the or nothing (ϕ)? ★★

(★ = Basic ★★ = Intermediate ★★★ = Advanced)

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Worksheet (do this)

Using **the** - or not using it - changes the meaning of the next word.

1 General

When we're speaking in general, we don't use it (ϕ)



Love is a wonderful feeling; we all feel love from time to time.

(ϕ before **love** and **time**)

It's possible to qualify the noun and keep it general:

Your new house was money well spent.

Time spent on revision before a test is not time wasted.

2 Specific

When we're speaking of a particular case, then we do use **the**:



The love of a mother for her child is perhaps the greatest love of all.

(**the** before **the love of** and **the greatest love**)

But often when you qualify the noun in some way, it becomes specific:

the vegetables from our garden

the best meat

Fill each blank with **the** or **ϕ**:

1 I can't imagine a world without ____ music.

2 Who arranged ____ flowers? They look lovely.

3 You measure ____ strength of an earthquake on ____ Richter scale.

4 In ____ long distance races, speed is more important than ____ stamina.

5 This is ____ best piece of work I have ever seen.

6 I love having ____ books around me, and I think War and Peace is ____ greatest book.

7 ____ time we spent learning English was ____ time well spent.

Tip: "____ time **we** spent" is specific; the second "time" is general.

8 I can't believe ____ colour of your new car!

9 ____ colour plays a vital role in design.

10 I love ____ wine, and ____ wine you brought yesterday was delicious.

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