



ENGLISH GRAMMAR 2 INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Unit 74 – The 2 (school / the school, etc.)

tienganh



The 2 (school / the school etc.)

SCHOOL AND THE SCHOOL

A



Ellie is ten years old. Every day she goes **to school**. She's **at school** now. **School** starts at 9 and finishes at 3.

We say a child goes **to school** or is **at school** (as a student). We are not thinking of a specific school. We are thinking of **school** as a *general* idea – children learning in a classroom.



Today Ellie's mother wants to speak to her daughter's teacher. So she has gone **to the school** to see her. She's **at the school** now.

Ellie's mother is not a student. She is not 'at school', she doesn't 'go to school'. If she wants to see Ellie's teacher, she goes **to the school** (= Ellie's school, a specific building).

The 2 (school / the school etc.)

THE OR WITHOUT THE

B

We use **prison** (or **jail**), **hospital**, **university**, **college** and **church** in a similar way. We do not use the when we are thinking of the general idea of these places and what they are used for. Compare:

EX1A: When I leave school, I plan to go to **university** / go to **college**. (as a student)

EX1B: I went to **the university** to meet Professor Thomas. (as a visitor, not as a student)

EX2A: Joe had an accident last week. He was taken to **hospital**. He's still in hospital now. (as a patient)

EX2B: Jane has gone to **the hospital** to visit Joe. She's at **the hospital** now. (as a visitor, not as a patient)

EX3A: Ken's brother is **in prison** for robbery. (He is a prisoner. We are not thinking of a specific prison.)

EX3B: Ken went to **the prison** to visit his brother. (He went as a visitor, not as a prisoner.)

EX4A: Sarah's father goes to **church** every Sunday. (for a religious service)

EX4B: Some workmen went to **the church** to repair the roof. (a specific building)

With most other places, you need the. For example, the station, the cinema (see Units 72C and 73D).

The 2 (school / the school etc.)

GO TO BED / BE IN BED

C

❖ We say *go to bed / be in bed* etc. (not the bed):

- EX5: I'm going **to bed** now. Goodnight.
- EX6: Do you ever have breakfast **in bed**?

but

- EX7: I sat down on **the bed**. (*a specific piece of furniture*)

❖ *go to work / be at work / start work / finish work* etc. (not the work):

- EX8: Chris didn't go to **work** yesterday.
- EX9: What time do you usually finish **work**?

❖ *go home / come home / arrive home / get home / be (at) home / do something at home* etc. :

- EX10: It's late. Let's **go home**.
- EX11: I don't go out to work. I work **at home**.

The 2 (school / the school etc.)



TÓM TẮT

1. Khi nói về các nơi chốn thông dụng như **trường học, trường đại học, bệnh viện, nhà thờ, nhà tù** v.v..., chúng ta không dùng **“the”** nếu chúng ta có ý nói về chúng với nghĩa thông thường người ta thường gắn với chúng, như trường học là để học sinh học tập, bệnh viện là để khám chữa bệnh cho bệnh nhân. *Every day Ellie goes to **school** at 8.30.* Còn khi nói về chúng như những toà nhà, chúng ta dùng kèm với **“the.”** *Some workmen went to **the church** to repair the roof.*
2. Khi nói về hầu hết các nơi chốn công cộng khác (ngoài các nơi chốn ở trên) như rạp hát, nhà ga v.v... Chúng ta vẫn dùng kèm với **“the.”** *I go to **the cinema** a lot, but I haven't been to **the theatre** for ages.*
3. Lưu ý 3 trường hợp thường gặp:
 - **bed:** không dùng **“the”** khi chỉ **bed** như chỗ để ngủ. *I'm going to bed now. Goodnight.* Khi dùng **“bed”** để chỉ một món đồ dùng trong nhà, chúng ta dùng kèm với **“the.”** *I sat down on **the bed**.*
 - **work:** chúng ta không dùng **“the”** khi nói **go to work, be at work, start work, finish work.** *Christ didn't go to **work** yesterday.*
 - **Home:** tương tự như với **work**, chúng ta cũng không dùng **“the”** với **home: go home, come home, arrive home, get home, be (at) home.** *I don't go out to work. I work at **home**.*