



ENGLISH GRAMMAR 2 INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Unit 75 – The 3 (children / the children)

tienganh



The 3 (children / the children)

THINGS IN GENERAL: NO THE

A

- ❖ When we are talking about things or people in general, we **do not use the**:
 - EX1: I'm afraid of **dogs**. (not the dogs) (dogs = dogs in general, not a specific group of dogs)
 - EX2: **Doctors** are usually paid more than **teachers**.
 - EX3: Do you know anybody who collects **stamps**?
 - EX4: **Life** has changed a lot in the last thirty years.
 - EX5: Do you like **classical music / Chinese food / fast cars**?
 - EX6: My favorite sport is **football/skiing/athletics**.
 - EX7: My favorite subject at school was **history/physics/English**.
- ❖ We say '**most people / most shops / most big cities**' etc. (not the most ...):
 - EX8: **Most shops** accept credit cards. (not The most shops)

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SPECIFIC THINGS: USE THE

B

We use the when we mean specific things or people. Compare:

In general (without the)

EX9A: **Children** learn from playing.
(= children in general)

EX10A: I couldn't live without **music**.

EX11A: All **cars** have wheels.

EX12A: **Sugar** isn't very good for you.

EX13A: **English people** drink a lot of tea.
(= English people in general)

Specific people or things (with the)

EX9B: We took **the children** to the zoo. (= a specific group, perhaps the speaker's children)

EX10B: The film wasn't very good, but I liked **the music**.
(= the music in the film)

EX11B: All **the cars** in this car park belong to people who work here.

EX12B: Can you pass **the sugar**, please?
(= the sugar on the table)

EX13B: **The English people I know** drink a lot of tea.
(= only the English people I know, not English people in general)

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GENERAL OR SPECIFIC: SOMETIMES NOT CLEAR

C

The difference between ‘something in general’ and ‘something specific’ is not always very clear. Compare:

In general (without the)

EX14: I like working with people.

(= people in general)

EX16: I like working with people who say what they think.

(not all people, but ‘people who say what they think’ is still a general idea)

EX18: Do you like coffee? (= coffee in general)

EX19: Do you like strong black coffee?

(not all coffee, but ‘strong black coffee’ is still a general idea)

Specific people or things (with the)

EX15: I like the people I work with.

(= a specific group of people)

EX17: The coffee we had after dinner wasn’t very good.

(=specific coffee)

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TÓM TẮT

1. Khi nói về người hoặc vật một cách **chung chung**, chúng ta **KHÔNG** dùng **“the.”** *I'm afraid of dogs.*
2. Khi nói về người / đồ vật **cụ thể** nào đó, **có thể xác định được**, chúng ta dùng kèm với **“the.”** *We took the children to the zoo.*

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