

Nuala's Grammar Explanation:

Definite articles

Today we're looking at articles; the words 'a' 'an' and 'the' and we're concentrating on the definite article 'the'. Let's look at 4 rules:

Firstly, to refer to something or someone both speakers in a conversation know about:

Helen: Have you got any kids?

Diarmuid: Yeah, a girl and a boy. The girl's 10 and the boy is 7.

At the beginning of the sentence, Diarmuid says 'a' girl and 'a' boy because this is the first time he's talking about his children. Later he says 'the girl' and 'the boy' because now Helen knows which children Diarmuid is talking about.

Secondly, we use 'the' before seas, rivers, and groups of mountains or islands.

Example 1: the Atlantic

Example 2: the Nile

Example 3: the Himalayas

Example 4: the Philippines

Thirdly, we use 'the' if there is only one of these people or things:

Example 1: the BBC

Example 2: the Taj Mahal

Example 3: the moon

And finally, we use 'the' before superlative adjectives

Example 1: the smallest

Example 2: the prettiest

Example 3: the most expensive

So to recap, we use 'the' when both the speaker and listener know about the person or thing being discussed, before the names of some areas of geography, if there is only one of these people or things and before superlative adjectives.

That's all from me, good luck with your grammar challenge!