

Lesson Plan: The definite article "the"

Level: Beginner (A1)

Time: 45–60 minutes

Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Understand what "**the**" means
- Use "**the**" before nouns when the listener knows which thing is being referred to
- Correctly use "**the**" with singular and plural nouns

Materials

- Whiteboard / slides
- Pictures of common objects (a book, the sun, a dog, etc.)
- Simple worksheet (fill in the blanks)
- Real objects in the classroom (desk, door, board)

1. Warm-up (5–10 minutes)

Teacher action:

Point to objects in the room and say:

"This is **a** desk."

"This is **the** desk."

Ask students:

"How many desks are in this room?"

"Which desk am I talking about?"

Explain simply:

"The" means we know which one.

2. Presentation: What does "the" mean? (10 minutes)

Simple Rule (write on the board):

We use "the" when **both the speaker and listener know the thing.**

Examples:

- **the sun** (there is only one)
- **the teacher** (in the classroom)
- I see a dog. **The dog** is big.
(Second time = we know the dog)

Key Points for Beginners:

"The" is used with:

- **Singular nouns:** the book
- **Plural nouns:** the books

"The" does **not change** (always "the")

3. Common Uses of "The" (10 minutes)

1. When there is only one

- the sun
- the moon
- the sky

2. When we talk about something again

- I have a pen.
- **The pen** is blue.

3. When it is clear which one

- Please close **the door**.
- Sit on **the chair**.

(Use classroom objects to demonstrate.)

4. Guided Practice (10 minutes)

Activity 1: Choose "a" or "the"

Say or show sentences:

1. ___ apple is red. (the apple you are holding)
2. I see ___ cat. (first time → a)
3. ___ cat is small. (second time → the)

Students answer together.

5. Pair or Individual Practice (10–15 minutes)

Activity 2: Fill in the blanks

Students complete sentences:

1. ___ sun is hot.
2. I have ___ book. ___ book is new.
3. Please open ___ window.

Activity 3 (optional speaking):

Students look around and say:

"The ___ is ___."
(The board is white. The door is open.)

6. Review & Assessment (5 minutes)

Quick Check:

Ask students:

- When do we use "the"?
 - When we know which one
 - When there is only one
 - When we talk about it again

Exit Question:

"Do we say *the sun* or *a sun*?"

"Why?"

Common beginner mistakes to address

- ✗ The my book
- ✓ My book
- ✗ The dogs are friendly. (when talking about dogs in general)
- ✓ Dogs are friendly.

(Keep explanations short and simple.)

Homework (optional)

Write **5 sentences** using "the" about your house or classroom.