

Zero article or “the” with place names

Most place names are used with **zero**, but there is some variation. In particular, **the** is used when a countable noun like one of the following appears in the title: *bay, canal, channel, gulf, kingdom, ocean, republic, river, sea, strait, union*. **The** is often omitted on maps.

| | Zero | The |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Continents: | <i>Africa, Asia, Europe</i> | -- |
| Geographical areas: | <i>Central Asia, Inner London, Lower Egypt, Outer Mongolia, Upper Austria</i> | <i>the Arctic, the Balkans, the Equator, the Middle East, the North Pole, the West</i> |
| Historical references: | <i>Ancient Greece, Medieval Europe, pre-war/post-war Germany, Roman Britain</i> | <i>the Dark Ages, the Renaissance, the Stone Age</i> |
| Lakes: | <i>Lake Constance, Lake Erie, Lake Geneva</i> | -- |
| Oceans / seas / rivers: | -- | <i>the Pacific (Ocean), the Caspian (Sea), the Nile (or the River Nile), the Mississippi River (or the Mississippi River), the Suez Canal</i> |
| Mountains: | <i>Everest, Mont Blanc</i> | <i>the Jungfrau, the Matterhorn</i> |
| Mountain ranges: | -- | <i>the Alps, the Himalayas</i> |
| Islands: | <i>Christmas Island, Delos, Easter Island</i> | <i>the Isle of Capri, the Isle of Man</i> |
| Groups of islands: | -- | <i>the Azores, the Bahamas</i> |
| Deserts: | -- | <i>the Gobi (Desert), the Kalahari (Desert), the Sahara (Desert)</i> |
| Countries: | Most countries: <i>Finland, Germany, Turkey, etc.</i> | Unions and associations: <i>the ARE (the Arab Republic of Egypt), the UK (the United Kingdom), the USA (the United States of America), the USSR (the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)</i> A few countries: <i>the Argentine (or Argentina), the Netherlands, the Philippines, (the) Sudan, the Yemen</i> |

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| States/counties: | Most states/counties: <i>Bavaria, Ohio, Surrey</i> | <i>the Vatican</i> |
| Cities: | Most cities: <i>Denver, London, Lyons</i> | <i>the City (of London), The Hague</i> |
| Universities: | <i>Cambridge University</i> | <i>the University of Cambridge</i> |
| Streets, etc.: | Most streets: <i>London Road, Madison Avenue, Oxford Street, Piccadilly Circus</i> | <i>the High Street, the Strand, The Drive</i> Note: <i>the London road (= the road that leads to London)</i> |
| Parks: | <i>Central Park, Hyde Park</i> | -- |
| Addresses: | <i>49 Albert Place, 3 West Street, 2 Gordon Square</i> | <i>25 The Drive, 74 The Crescent</i> |
| Buildings: | <i>Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey</i> | <i>the British Museum, the Library of Congress</i> |

Other locations: **The** is sometimes part of the title, sometimes not:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Bridges | <i>London Bridge</i> | <i>The Golden Gate Bridge</i> |
| Cinemas | -- | <i>The Gaumont The Odeon</i> |
| Hospitals | <i>Guy's (Hospital)</i> | <i>The London Hospital</i> |
| Hotels | <i>Brown's Hotel</i> | <i>The Hilton (Hotel)</i> |
| 'Places' | <i>Death Valley Heaven, Hades</i> | <i>The Everglades The Underworld</i> |
| Pubs | -- | <i>The White Horse</i> |
| Restaurants | <i>Leoni's (Restaurant)</i> | <i>The Cafe Royal</i> |
| Shops | <i>Selfridges Marks and Spencers</i> | <i>The Scotch House</i> |
| Stations | <i>Victoria (Station) Waterloo (Station)</i> | -- |
| Theatres | <i>Her Majesty's (Theatre) Sadler's Wells (Theatre)</i> | <i>The Phoenix (Theatre) The Coliseum (Theatre)</i> |

(L.G. Alexander. Longman English Grammar. pp. 70 – 71)