

# a car / some money (countable/uncountable 1)

A noun can be *countable* or *uncountable*.

## A

Countable nouns

For example: (a) **car** (a) **man** (a) **key** (a) **house** (a) **flower** (an) **idea** (an) **accident**

You can use **one/two/three** (*etc.*) + *countable nouns* (you can *count* them):



one car



two cars



three men



four houses

Countable nouns can be *singular* (= one) or *plural* (= two or more):

*singular:* a car my car the car *etc.*

*plural:* cars two cars the cars some cars many cars *etc.*

- I've got **a car**.
- There aren't **many cars** in the car park.
- New **cars** are very expensive.

You *cannot* use the singular (**car/house/key** *etc.*) alone. You need **a/an** (⇒ Unit 64):

- We can't get in without **a key**. (*not* 'without key')

## B

Uncountable nouns

For example: **water** **air** **rice** **salt** **plastic** **money** **music** **tennis**



water



salt



money



music

You *cannot* say **one/two/three** (*etc.*) + these things: ~~one water~~ ~~two musics~~

Uncountable nouns have only *one* form:

**money** the **money** my **money** some **money** much **money** *etc.*

- I've got **some money**.
- There isn't **much money** in the box.
- **Money** isn't everything.

You *cannot* use **a/an** + *uncountable nouns*: ~~a money~~ ~~a music~~





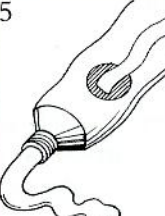
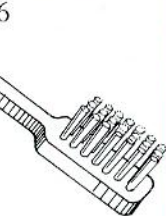

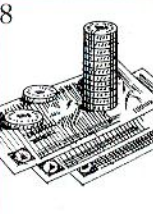
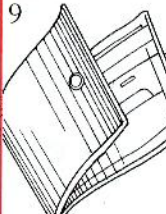
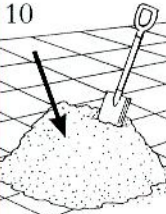


But you can say **a piece of ... / a glass of ...** *etc.* + *uncountable noun*:

|                          |                         |                           |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>a glass of</b> water  | <b>a can of</b> oil     | <b>a bar of</b> chocolate |
| <b>a piece of</b> cheese | <b>a bottle of</b> milk | <b>a piece of</b> music   |
| <b>a bowl of</b> rice    | <b>a cup of</b> coffee  | <b>a game of</b> tennis   |

EXERCISES

66.1 What are these things? Some are countable and some are uncountable. Write **a/an** if necessary. The names of these things are:

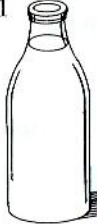








bucket      envelope      milk      salt      spoon      toothpaste  
egg      jug      money      sand      toothbrush      wallet

|  |   |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| 1<br><br>It's <u>salt</u> . | 2<br><br>It's <u>a spoon</u> . | 3<br><br>It's ..... | 4<br><br>It's .....  | 5<br><br>It's .....  | 6<br><br>It's .....  |
| 7<br><br>It's .....         | 8<br><br>It's .....            | 9<br><br>It's ..... | 10<br><br>It's ..... | 11<br><br>It's ..... | 12<br><br>It's ..... |

66.2 Some of these sentences are right, but some of them need **a/an**. Put in **a/an** where necessary.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 I haven't got <u>watch</u> <u>a watch</u> ..... | 9 Jamaica is island. ....                 |
| 2 Do you like cheese? <u>OK</u> .....             | 10 I don't need key. ....                 |
| 3 Ann never wears hat. ....                       | 11 Everybody needs food. ....             |
| 4 Are you looking for job? ....                   | 12 I've got good idea. ....               |
| 5 Mary doesn't eat meat. ....                     | 13 Can you drive car? ....                |
| 6 Mary eats apple every day. ....                 | 14 Do you want cup of coffee? ....        |
| 7 I'm going to party tonight. ....                | 15 I don't like coffee without milk. .... |
| 8 Music is wonderful thing. ....                  | 16 Don't go out without umbrella. ....    |

66.3 What are the things in the pictures? Write **a ... of ...** for each picture. Use the words in the boxes.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| 1<br> | 2<br> | 3<br> | 4<br> | 5<br> | 6<br> | 7<br> | 8<br> | 9<br> |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|

|        |       |       |           |       |       |
|--------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|
| bar    | cup   | loaf  | bread     | milk  | tea   |
| bottle | glass | piece | chocolate | paper | water |
| bowl   | jar   | piece | honey     | soup  | wood  |

- |                           |         |         |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|
| 1 <u>a bottle of milk</u> | 4 ..... | 7 ..... |
| 2 .....                   | 5 ..... | 8 ..... |
| 3 .....                   | 6 ..... | 9 ..... |

# a car / some money (countable/uncountable 2)

## A a/an and some

**a/an** + *singular countable noun* (car/apple/shoe etc.):

- I need **a** new **car**.
- Would you like **an** **apple**?



**an** apple

**some** + *plural countable nouns* (cars/apples/shoes etc.):

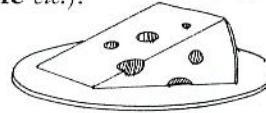
- I need **some** new **shoes**.
- Would you like **some** **apples**?



**some** apples

**some** + *uncountable nouns* (water/money/music etc.):

- I need **some** **money**.
- Would you like **some** **cheese**?
- (or Would you like **a piece of** cheese?)



**some** cheese *or*  
**a piece of** cheese

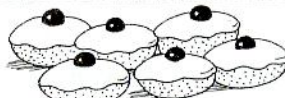
Compare **a** and **some**:

- Linda bought **a** **hat**, **some** **shoes** and **some** **perfume**.
- I read **a** **newspaper**, wrote **some** **letters** and listened to **some** **music**.

## B Many nouns are *sometimes* countable and *sometimes* uncountable. For example:



**a** cake



**some** cakes



**some** cake *or* **a piece of** cake



**a** chicken



**some** chickens



**some** chicken *or* **a piece of** chicken

Compare **a paper** (= a newspaper) and **some paper**:

- I want something to read. I'm going to buy **a paper**.
- but* • I want to make a list. I need **some paper** / **a piece of paper**. (*not* 'a paper')

## C Be careful with these nouns – they are usually uncountable:

**information**   **advice**   **weather**   **news**   **bread**   **hair**   **furniture**   **work**

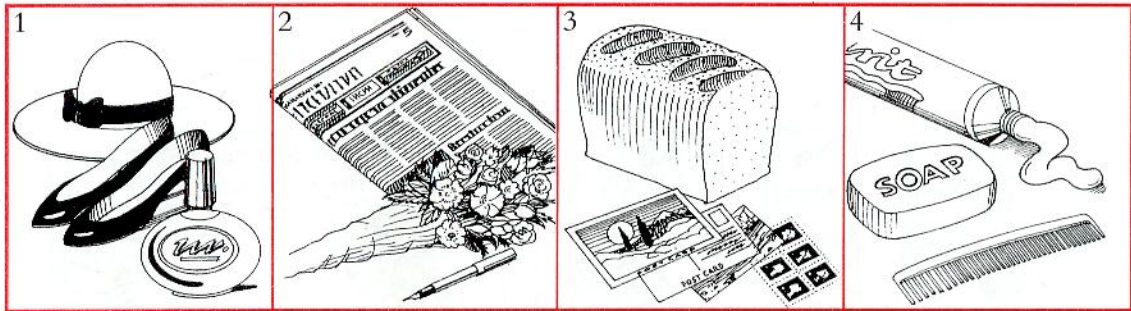
- I need **some information** about hotels in London. (*not* 'informations')
- It's nice **weather** today. (*not* 'a nice weather')
- Listen! I've just had **some** good **news**. (*not* 'a good news')
- I'm going to buy **some** **bread**. (*not* 'a bread')
- Sue has got very long **hair**. (*not* 'hairs')
- They've got **some** very nice **furniture** in their house. (*not* 'furnitures')
- 'Do you like your job?' 'Yes, but it's hard **work**.' (*not* 'a hard work')

We say **a job** (*but not* 'a work'):

- I've got **a** new **job**. (*not* 'a new work')

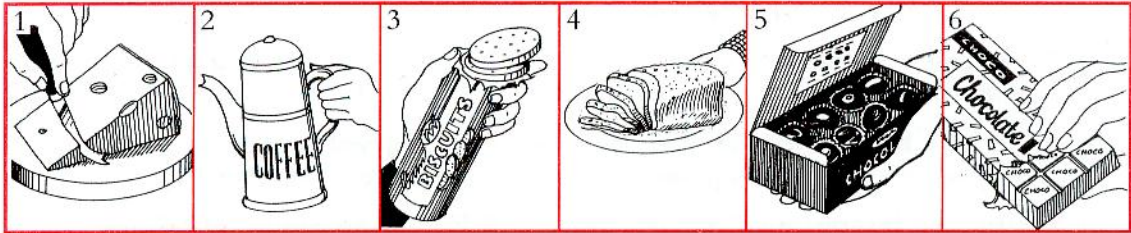
EXERCISES

67.1 What did you buy? Use the pictures to make sentences (I bought ...).



- 1 I bought some perfume, a hat and some shoes.
- 2 I bought .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....

67.2 Write sentences with **Would you like a ... ?** or **Would you like some ... ?**



- 1 Would you like some cheese?
- 2 Would you like ..... ?
- 3 Would ..... ?
- 4 .....
- 5 .....
- 6 .....

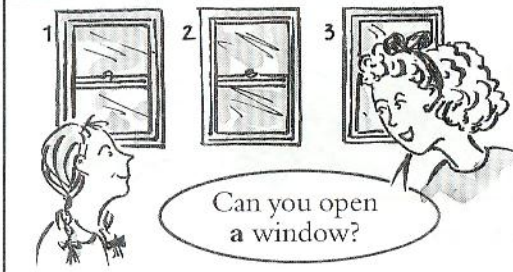

67.3 Put in **a/an** or **some**.

- 1 I read a book and listened to some music.
- 2 I need ..... money. I want to buy ..... food.
- 3 We met ..... interesting people at the party.
- 4 I'm going to open ..... window to get ..... fresh air.
- 5 She didn't eat much for lunch – only ..... apple and ..... bread.
- 6 We live in ..... big house. There's ..... nice garden with ..... beautiful trees.
- 7 I'm going to make a table. First I need ..... wood.
- 8 Listen to me carefully. I'm going to give you ..... advice.
- 9 I want to write a letter. I need ..... paper and ..... pen.

67.4 Which is right?

- 1 I'm going to buy some new shoe/shoes. shoes is right
- 2 Martin has got brown eye/eyes.
- 3 Paula has got short black hair/hairs.
- 4 The tourist guide gave us some information/informations about the town.
- 5 We're going to buy some new chair/chairs.
- 6 We're going to buy some new furniture/furnitures.
- 7 It's difficult to get a work/job at the moment.
- 8 We had lovely weather / a lovely weather when we were on holiday.

A

| a/an  | the   |
|---|---|
|  <p>There are <i>three</i> windows here.<br/>a window = window 1 or 2 or 3</p>   |  <p>There is only <i>one</i> window here – <b>the</b> window.</p>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I've got <b>a car</b>.<br/>(there are many cars and I've got one)</li> <li>• Can I ask <b>a question</b>?<br/>(there are many questions – can I ask one?)</li> <li>• Is there <b>a hotel</b> near here? (there are many hotels – is there one near here?)</li> <li>• Paris is <b>an interesting city</b>. (there are many interesting cities and Paris is one)</li> <li>• Lisa is <b>a student</b>.<br/>(there are many students and Lisa is one)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I'm going to clean <b>the car</b> tomorrow.<br/>(= my car)</li> <li>• Can you repeat <b>the question</b>, please?<br/>(= the question that you asked)</li> <li>• We enjoyed our holiday. <b>The hotel</b> was very nice. (= our hotel)</li> <li>• Paris is <b>the capital of France</b>.<br/>(there is only one capital of France)</li> <li>• Lisa is <b>the youngest student</b> in her class.<br/>(there is only one youngest student in her class)</li> </ul> |

Compare **a** and **the**:

- I bought **a jacket** and **a shirt**. **The jacket** was cheap but **the shirt** was expensive.  
(= **the jacket** and **the shirt that I bought**)

B

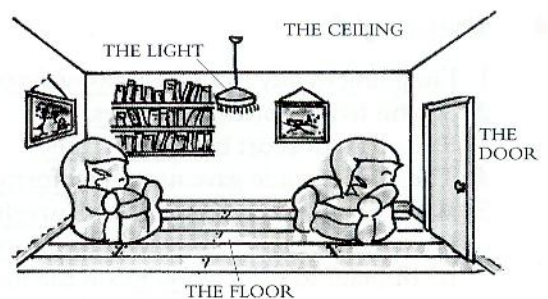
We say **the** ... when it is clear which thing or person we mean. For example:

**the door** / **the ceiling** / **the floor** / **the carpet** / **the light** etc. (of a room)

**the roof** / **the garden** / **the kitchen** / **the bathroom** etc. (of a house)

**the centre** / **the station** / **the airport** / **the town hall** etc. (of a town)

- 'Where's Tom?' 'In **the kitchen**.'  
(= the kitchen in this house or flat)
- Turn off **the light** and close **the door**.  
(= the light and the door of the room)
- Do you live far from **the centre**?  
(= the centre of your town)
- I'd like to speak to **the manager**, please.  
(= the manager of this shop etc.)




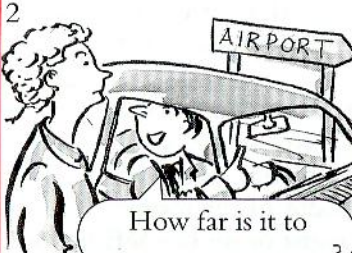

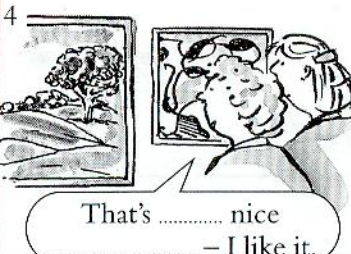

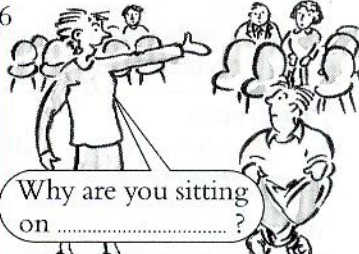
EXERCISES

68.1 Put in a/an or the.

- 1 We enjoyed our holiday. The hotel was very nice.
- 2 'Can I ask a question?' 'Of course. What do you want to ask?'
- 3 You look very tired. You need ..... holiday.
- 4 'Where's Tom?' 'He's in ..... bathroom.'
- 5 Jane is ..... interesting person. You must meet her.
- 6 A: Excuse me, can you tell me how to get to ..... city centre?  
B: Yes, go straight on and then take ..... next turning left.
- 7 A: Shall we go out for ..... meal this evening?  
B: Yes, that's ..... good idea.
- 8 It's ..... nice morning. Let's go for ..... walk.
- 9 Amanda is ..... student. When she finishes her studies, she wants to be ..... journalist. She lives with two friends in ..... flat near ..... college where she is studying. .... flat is small but she likes it.
- 10 Peter and Mary have got two children, ..... boy and ..... girl. .... boy is seven years old and ..... girl is three. Peter works in ..... factory. Mary hasn't got ..... job at the moment.

68.2 Complete the sentences. Use a or the + one of these words:

airport cup door floor picture radio

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p>1</p>  <p>Can you open <u>the</u> <u>door</u>, please?</p> | <p>2</p>  <p>How far is it to .....</p>            | <p>3</p>  <p>Can I have ..... of coffee, please?</p> |
| <p>4</p>  <p>That's ..... nice ..... - I like it.</p>         | <p>5</p>  <p>Can you turn off ..... , please?</p> | <p>6</p>  <p>Why are you sitting on .....</p>       |

68.3 Put in a/an or the where necessary.

- 1 Don't forget to (turn off light) when you go out. turn off the light
- 2 Enjoy your holiday and don't forget to send me postcard. ....
- 3 What is name of this village? .....
- 4 Canada is very big country. ....
- 5 What is largest city in Canada? .....
- 6 I like this room but I don't like colour of carpet. ....
- 7 'Are you OK?' 'No, I've got headache.' .....
- 8 We live in old house near station. ....
- 9 What is name of director of film we saw last night? .....

**A**

We use **the** when it is clear which thing or person we mean:

- What is **the name** of this street? (this street has only one name)
- Who is **the best player** in your team?
- Can you tell me **the time**, please? (= the time *now*)
- My office is on **the first floor**. (= the first floor of the building)

Don't forget **the**:

- Do you live near **the city centre**? (*not* 'near city centre')
- Excuse me, where is **the nearest bank**? (*not* 'where is nearest ...')

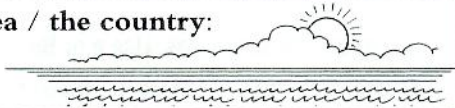

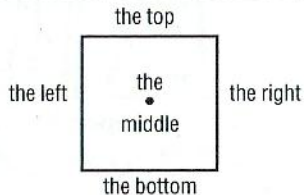

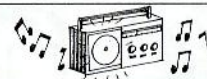
**B**

**the same ...**

- We live in **the same street**. (*not* 'in same street')
- 'Are these two books different?' 'No, they're **the same**.' (*not* 'they're same')




**C**

We say:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>the sun / the moon / the world / the sky / the sea / the country:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The sky</b> is blue and <b>the sun</b> is shining.</li> <li>• Do you live in a town or in <b>the country</b>?</li> </ul>   |     |
| <p><b>the police / the fire brigade / the army</b> (of a city, country etc.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My brother is a soldier. He's in <b>the army</b>.</li> </ul>  |    |
| <p><b>the top / the end / the middle / the left</b> etc.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write your name at <b>the top</b> of the page.</li> <li>• My house is at <b>the end</b> of this street.</li> <li>• The table is in <b>the middle</b> of the room.</li> <li>• Do you drive on <b>the right</b> or on <b>the left</b> in your country?</li> </ul> |   |
| <p>(play) <b>the piano / the guitar / the trumpet</b> etc. (musical instruments):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paula is learning to play <b>the piano</b>.</li> </ul>  |  |
| <p><b>the radio:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I listen to <b>the radio</b> a lot.</li> </ul>   |   |

**D**

We do *not* use **the** with:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>television:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I watch <b>television</b> a lot.</li> <li>• What's on <b>television</b> tonight?</li> </ul> <p><i>but</i> • Can you turn off <b>the television</b>? (= the TV set)</p>                               |  |
| <p><b>breakfast / lunch / dinner:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What did you have for <b>breakfast</b>? (<i>not</i> 'the breakfast')</li> <li>• <b>Dinner</b> is ready!</li> </ul>   |  |
| <p><b>next / last + week/month/year/summer/Monday</b> etc.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I'm not working <b>next week</b>. (<i>not</i> 'the next week')</li> <li>• Did you have a holiday <b>last summer</b>? (<i>not</i> 'the last summer')</li> </ul> |  |

EXERCISES

69.1 Put in **the** where necessary. Write OK if the sentence is already correct.

- 1 What is (name) of this street? the name
- 2 What's on television tonight? OK
- 3 Our apartment is on second floor. ....
- 4 Would you like to go to moon? .....
- 5 Which is best hotel in this town? .....
- 6 What time is lunch? .....
- 7 How far is it to city centre? .....
- 8 We're going away at end of May. ....
- 9 What are you doing next weekend? .....
- 10 I didn't like her first time I met her. ....
- 11 I'm going out after dinner. ....
- 12 What's biggest city in world? .....
- 13 My sister got married last month. ....
- 14 My dictionary is on top shelf on right. ....
- 15 We live in country about five miles from nearest village. ....

69.2 Complete the sentences. Use: **the same + age colour problem street time.**

- 1 I live in North Street and you live in North Street. We live in the same street.
- 2 I arrived at 8.30 and you arrived at 8.30. We arrived at .....
- 3 Jim is 25 and Sue is 25. Jim and Sue are .....
- 4 My shirt is dark blue and so is my jacket. My shirt and jacket are .....
- 5 I've got no money and you've got no money. We've got .....

69.3 Look at the pictures and complete the sentences. Use **the** if necessary.



- 1 The sun is shining.
- 2 She's playing .....
- 3 They're having .....
- 4 He's listening to .....
- 5 They're watching .....
- 6 They're swimming in .....

69.4 Complete these sentences. Choose from the list. Use **the** if necessary.

**capital dinner police lunch middle name sky television**

- 1 We had dinner at a restaurant last night.
- 2 We stayed at a very nice hotel but I don't remember .....
- 3 ..... is very clear tonight. You can see all the stars.
- 4 Did you see the film on ..... last night?
- 5 Somebody was trying to break into the shop so I called .....
- 6 Tokyo is ..... of Japan.
- 7 'What did you have for .....?' 'A salad.'
- 8 I woke up in ..... of the night.



go to work

go home

go to the cinema

A



She's **at work**.



They're going **to school**.



He's **in bed**.

We say:

- (go) **to work**, (be) **at work**, start **work**, finish **work**:
- Goodbye! I'm **going to work** now. (*not* 'to the work')
  - I **finish work** at 5 o'clock every day.
- (go) **to school**, (be) **at school**, start **school**, leave **school** *etc.*:
- What did you learn **at school** today? (*not* 'at the school')
  - Some children don't like **school**.
- (go) **to university/college**, (be) **at university/college**:
- Helen wants to **go to university** when she **leaves school**.
  - What did you study **at college**?
- (go) **to hospital**, (be) **in hospital**:
- Jack was in an accident. He had to **go to hospital**.
- (go) **to prison**, (be) **in prison**:
- Why is he **in prison**? What did he do?
- (go) **to church**, (be) **in/at church**:
- David usually **goes to church** on Sundays.
- (go) **to bed**, (be) **in bed**:
- I'm tired. I'm **going to bed**. (*not* 'to the bed')
  - 'Where's Jill?' 'She's **in bed**.'
- (go) **home**, (be) **at home** *etc.*:
- I'm tired. I'm **going home**. (*not* 'to home')
  - Are you going out tonight or are you **staying at home**?

~~THE~~

B

We say:

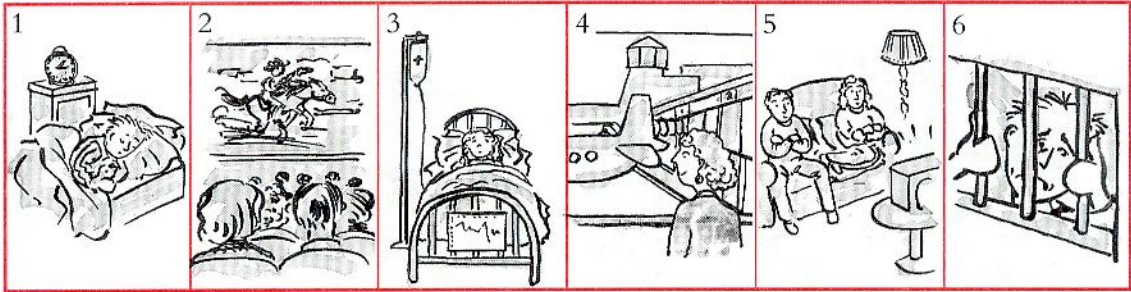
- (go to) **the cinema / the theatre / the bank / the post office**:
- I never go to **the theatre** but I often go to **the cinema**.
  - 'Are you going to **the bank**?' 'No, **the post office**.'
- (go to) **the doctor, the dentist**:
- You're not well. Why don't you go to **the doctor**?
  - I'm going to **the dentist** tomorrow.

also **the station / the airport / the city centre** (⇒ Unit 68)

THE

EXERCISES

70.1 Where are these people? Complete the sentences. Sometimes you need **the**.



- 1 He's in bed.  
 2 They're at .....  
 3 She's in .....  
 4 She's at .....  
 5 They're at .....  
 6 He's in .....

70.2 Complete the sentences. Choose from the list. Use **the** if necessary.

**bank bed church home post office school station**

- 1 I need some money. I must go to the bank.  
 2 David usually goes to church on Sundays.  
 3 In Britain, children go to ..... from the age of five.  
 4 There were a lot of people at ..... waiting for the train.  
 5 I phoned you last night but you weren't at .....  
 6 I'm going to ..... now. Goodnight!  
 7 I'm going to ..... to get some stamps.

70.3 Complete the sentences. Sometimes you need **the**.

- 1 If you want to catch a plane, you go to the airport.  
 2 If you want to see a film, you go to .....  
 3 If you are tired and you want to sleep, you .....  
 4 If you rob a bank and the police catch you, you .....  
 5 If you have a problem with your teeth, you .....  
 6 If you want to study after you leave school, you .....  
 7 If you are injured in an accident, you .....

70.4 Put in **the** where necessary. Write **OK** if the sentence is complete.

- 1 We went (to cinema) last night. to the cinema  
 2 I finish work at 5 o'clock every day. OK  
 3 Mary wasn't feeling well yesterday, so she went to doctor. ....  
 4 I wasn't feeling well this morning, so I stayed in bed. ....  
 5 Why is Angela always late for work? .....  
 6 'Where are the children?' 'They're at school.' .....  
 7 We've got no money in bank. ....  
 8 When I was younger, I went to church every Sunday. ....  
 9 What time do you usually get home from work? .....  
 10 Do you live far from city centre? .....  
 11 'Where shall we meet?' 'At station.' .....  
 12 Jim is ill. He's in hospital. ....  
 13 Margaret takes her children to school every day. ....  
 14 Would you like to go to university? .....  
 15 Would you like to go to theatre this evening? .....