

The use of Articles with Geographical Names

Zero Article	Definite Article
1. Names of continents: <i>Europe, Asia, Australia, South America</i>. When names of continents are modified by attributes: <i>northern, southern, eastern, western, central, minor, south-east, Latin: Northern Europe, Latin America, South-East Asia</i>.	But: <i>the Arctic, the Antarctic</i> – regions, meaning the sea and the land round the North and South Poles.
2. Names of countries, provinces, cities, towns, villages: <i>Franca, Great Britain, California, Katanga, Oslo, Delhi, Rome</i>. No article is used with such attributes as north(ern), south(ern), ancient, old, central: <i>Old England, Ancient Greece, Southern France</i>.	But: countries: <i>the FRG, The USA, the Ukraine, the Argentine (but Argentina), the Congo, the Lebanon, the Netherlands, the Cameroon, the Sudan, the Senegal</i>. Provinces: <i>the Crimea, the Caucasus, the Ruhr, the Tyrol, the Transvaal, the Riviera</i>. Cities: <i>the Hague</i>
3. Names of bays: <i>Hudson Bay, Baffin Bay</i>	Names of oceans, seas, rivers, straits, channels, canals: <i>the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Baltic (sea), the Mediterranean (sea), the Black Sea, the South Seas, the Magellan Strait, the Bering Strait, the Dardanelles, the Bosphorus, the English Channel, the Suez Canal, the Volga, the Nile, the Thames, the Amazon</i>
4. Names of separate mountain peaks, separate islands, water falls: <i>Elbrus, Mont Blanc, Everest, Vesuvius, Sicily, Cuba, Haiti, Cyprus, Madagascar, Niagara Falls</i>	Names of mountain chains, groups of islands: <i>the Rocky Mountains, the Andes, the Alps, the Urals, the Philippines, the Bahamas, the Canaries, the Bermudas</i>. Mountain passes: <i>the Saint Gotthard Pass</i>
5. When the names of lakes are preceded by the noun "lake" no article is used: <i>Lake Baikal, Lake Ohio, Lake Ladoga, Lake Ontario</i>	The names of lakes are usually used with definite article: <i>the Baikal, the Ladoga, the Ontario</i>.
6. Names of peninsulas: <i>Indo-China, Kamchatka, Labrador</i>.	When the word "peninsula" is mentioned: <i>the Balkan Peninsula, the Kola Peninsula</i>
	Names of deserts: <i>the Sahara, the Gobi, the Kara-Kum</i>.
	The definite article is used with the pattern a common noun + of + a proper name: <i>the City of New York, the Cape of Good Hope, the Gulf of Mexico, the Bay of Biscay, the Lake of Geneva, the Island of Majorca</i>

