

A BIG MOVE: Review of possessive adjectives

THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR

- The grammar points covered in this worksheet are: adjective / noun word order; 's possessive and possessive adjectives.
- In both Latin American Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese adjectives tend to come after the noun they refer to, causing errors such as *A city big*. ✗
- There is no genitive -s in either of the languages, so students find this confusing. To make matters worse, students in Latin America are exposed to the form through foreign influences such as McDonald's, and so sometimes think that it can be used with any proper noun. *In Brazil there are many Volkswagen's*. ✗
- There are problems with possessive adjectives, especially *your* (formal), *his*, *her* and *their* because the same word is used for them all in Latin American Spanish. Also, possessive adjectives agree with the gender and number of the "possession." All that can cause errors such as *He loves your wife* (= *his wife*). ✗ and *She often visits their parents* (= *her parents*). ✗
- Latin American Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese uses the equivalent of *the X of Y* for noun-noun possessives, causing avoidance of "s / s" possessives and creating oddities such as *It's the book of Kate*. ✗

ANSWERS

EXERCISE 1

- 1 big
- 2 quiet
- 3 ugly
- 4 small
- 5 beautiful
- 6 busy

EXERCISE 2

- 1a 2b 3a 4a 5b 6a

EXERCISE 3

- 1 my 2 his 3 our 4 your 5 Her 6 their

EXERCISE 4

- 1 Venice is a very beautiful city.
- 2 Do you like busy places?
- 3 It is a small place.
- 4 Is your house very big?
- 5 Yes, my house is very big.
- 6 I live in an ugly city.

PERSONALIZE IT!

- Get the students to write short descriptions of a place they like or know well. Ask the students to include three or four descriptive adjectives but to leave blanks where the adjectives go as was done in exercise 1.
- Collect in the descriptions and redistribute them so that each student gets one (make sure it's not their own). Now, ask the students to fill in the blanks.
- Give them back to the students who wrote them and ask them to correct them.

A BIG MOVE

EXERCISE 1

Fill in the blanks using the words from the box. You can use each word only once.

beautiful quiet small ugly busy big

London is a **big** city.

My name is Tom and I live in New York. New York is a very (1) city and it isn't very (2)

Some people think it's (3) but I think it's beautiful. I love living here.

My name is Sue and I live in Seaport. Seaport is a (4) village. It's fairly quiet and very (5)

In the summer there are lots of tourists and the village is (6)

EXERCISE 2

Which sentence is correct: a or b?

a) We are in our new house. ✓

b) We are in we new house. ✗

- 1 a) It's Kate's book.
b) It's the book of Kate.
- 2 a) It's the house of me.
b) It's my house.
- 3 a) Is this your bag?
b) Is this yours bag?
- 4 a) Their daughter is named Susan.
b) They daughter is named Susan.
- 5 a) It's he car.
b) It's his car.
- 6 a) Her sister is Sandra.
b) Hers sister is Sandra.

EXERCISE 3

Fill in the blanks using the words in the box.

my your their his Her our ~~their~~

They live in number 6.

Number 6 is **their** house.

- 1 I live here.
It's house.
- 2 That's John's sister.
It's sister.
- 3 We have a dog.
It's dog.
- 4 Is that car?
Yes, it's my car.
- 5 She lives at 106 Westdale Drive.
..... address is 106 Westdale Drive.
- 6 They have a cat.
It's cat.

EXERCISE 4

Put the words in order to make affirmative sentences or questions.

a / big / is / city / New York.

New York is a big city......

- 1 very / Venice / beautiful / is / city / a
.....
- 2 places / busy / you / like / do
..... ?
- 3 small / it / place / a / is
.....
- 4 very / is / house / big / your
..... ?
- 5 my / very / yes / house / big / is
.....
- 6 ugly / live / in / an / I / city
.....