

Day 17:

Possessive and

Demonstrative

Adjectives

LESSON 17: Possessive and Demonstrative Adjectives

We all know what adjectives can do (right??) These are the words that describe a noun. But their purpose is not limited to descriptions such as cool or kind or pretty. They have a host of other uses like providing more information about the noun they're appearing with or even pointing out something.

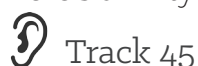
In this lesson, we'll be talking about (or rather, breezing through) possessive adjectives and demonstrative adjectives. These are relatively easy topics that won't be needing a lot of brain cell activity. So sit back and try to enjoy today's topic.

First, **possessive adjectives**.

When you need to express that a noun belongs to another person or thing, you use possessive adjectives. We know it in English as the words: my, your, his, her, its, our, and their.

In French, the possessive adjectives (like all other kinds of adjectives) need to agree to the noun they're describing.

Here's a nifty little table to cover all that.



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When used with masculine singular noun	When used with feminine singular noun	When used with plural noun whether feminine or masculine	What it means
mon	ma (*mon)	mes	my
ton	ta (*ton)	tes	your
son	sa (*son)	ses	his/her/its/one's
notre	notre	nos	our
votre	votre	vos	your
leur	leur	leurs	their

Note that *mon, ton and son are used in the feminine form with nouns that begin with a vowel or the letter h.

Here are some more reminders in using possessive adjectives:

- Possessive adjectives always come BEFORE the noun.
- Possessive adjectives “agree” not with the owner of the item being used in the sentence, but with the item itself.
- In French, possessive adjectives are not used to point out body parts. Le, la l' or les are being used instead (don't ask us why)

With all that being said, let's move on to the next: **demonstrative adjectives**.

In the words of the wise (also known as the world wide web): haters gonna hate, potatoes gonna potato. And we might as well add that possessives gonna possess, and demonstratives gonna demonstrate.

In short, the words itself will already tell you what they do (get it? No rocket science here, seriously)

Here are some things to get you covered about demonstrative adjectives:

- Demonstrative adjectives are used to point out something. In English, these are the words: this, that, these, and those. (e.g., this book, that face, these goosebumps, and those creatures.)
- In French, the word 'ce' covers the entire demonstrative adjectives. This will, however, change its form depending on the kind of noun.

Singular masculine – ce (cet*)

Singular feminine – cette

Both means this or that

Plural masculine – ces

Plural feminine – ces

Both means these or those

*cet is used for singular masculine nouns that begin with either a vowel or a h.

- Important items to remember when using 'ce':

1. ce always comes BEFORE the noun it is referring to, no matter what its form is.
2. -ci is added at the end of the noun to point out its nearness to you. -là is added at the end of the noun to point out that it is far from you.



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Example: Prends cette valise-ci. (Take this case.)

Est-ce que tu reconnais cette personne-là? (Do you recognize that person?)

..and with that we're done for the day (hooray!)

Now for the exercises...

Let's practice (aka exercices):

I. Possessive Adjectives

Fill in the blank with the correct possessive determiner.

1. _____ famille est intéressante. (my)
2. _____ neveux sont ici. (your)
3. Jean, David et Julie sont _____ amis. (my)
4. _____ amour est éternel. (their)
5. _____ visite me fait plaisir (your)

II. Demonstrative Adjectives

Fill in the blank with the correct demonstrative determiner: ce, cet, cette, or ces.

1. Tu as vu le film _____ matin?
2. Je suis folle de ('crazy about') _____ animal!
3. Qui est _____ jolie fille?
4. Que faites-vous _____ après-midi?
5. _____ enfants sont naïfs!



Fun facts: Every Wednesday in France, war alarm is sounded as a practise or rehearsal. If an alarm sounds on a day other than Wednesday, that means France is in war at that moment on.

Answer:



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I. Possessive Adjectives

1. **Ma** famille est intéressante. (my)
2. **Vos** neveux sont ici. (your)
3. Jean, David et Julie sont **mes** amis. (my)
4. **Leur** amour est éternel. (their)
5. **Votre** visite me fait plaisir (your)

II. Demonstrative Adjectives

1. Tu as vu le film **ce** matin?
2. Je suis folle de ('crazy about') **cet** animal!
3. Qui est **cette** jolie fille?
4. Que faites-vous **cet** après-midi?
5. **Ces** enfants sont naïfs!