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.

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

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 potate. 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.
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!