

Stuff and things

5.1 Your world in objects

GOALS ■ Describe objects ■ Use articles

Vocabulary & Listening adjectives for describing objects

- 1 Write the names of three possessions which are very important to you for the reasons given. Compare your answers with a partner.

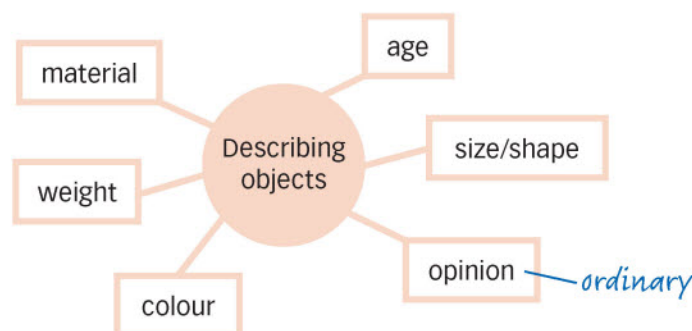
Possession	Reason
a _____	Somebody special gave it to me/made it for me.
b _____	It makes me feel happy.
c _____	It makes my life easier.

- 2a 5.1))) Listen to four people talking about their favourite possessions. Write speaker number 1-4 next to photos a-d.



- b Why are the objects important to each person? Choose from reasons in exercise 1.
- 3 5.1))) Which object does each sentence below describe? Listen again and check your answers.
- It's just an **ordinary** one, nothing special.
 - It's really, really small - **tiny**, in fact.
 - It's made of a kind of **pale grey metal**.
 - It's not very **valuable** - not worth much money - but it's very **special** to me.
 - It's **brand new**. I only got it a few weeks ago.
 - It's very **thin** and **light** so it's easy to carry around.

- 4a Write the words in **bold** in exercise 3 in the correct place on the mind map.



- b Look at these sentences from the listening. Work with a partner and add the words in **bold** to the mind map.

- The seat's made of **leather**.
- It's so **useful** I can't imagine life without it.
- It's got a **plastic** cover.
- It's quite **large** and really **heavy**.
- It contains **personal** things ... It's **amazing**.
- It's got a **dark blue** stone.
- It's very **comfortable** to ride.
- It's **antique** and **gold**.

PRONUNCIATION adjective word stress

- 5a 5.2))) Complete the table with these adjectives from exercises 3 and 4. Then listen and check your answers.

plastic **useful** amazing personal ordinary special
comfortable valuable

●●	●●●	●●●●
<i>useful</i>		

- b 5.3))) Listen again and repeat the adjectives.
- 6a Write sentences to describe your favourite object. Say why you like it but don't write its name.
- b Work in a group. Take turns to describe your object and guess the other objects.

Reading & Grammar articles

- 7a Work with a partner and discuss the photos. What do you think they show?



- b Read the article and check your answers.

Time capsules

A time capsule is a special container with objects inside. People choose **the objects** because they are typical of the time they are living in. They then hide **the container** so in the future people can open it and learn about life at that time. **People** often put time capsules under the ground or build them into the walls of buildings.

Recently, teachers at **a school** in England opened a time capsule from the year 1912, when the school was built. The capsule was made of glass and it contained **newspapers**, money and a plan of the school. It also contained **information** about **the history** of the school.

Nowadays, you can also buy time capsules to give as a personal present when **a baby** is born. When **the baby** becomes an adult he or she can enjoy finding the things which were important or in fashion in the year they were born.

- 8 Read the article again. Work with a partner and discuss the questions.
- 1 Imagine you are going to explain what a time capsule is to a friend. What would you say? (Don't look at the article.)
 - 2 What year would you like to find a time capsule from?
 - 3 What do you think would be in a time capsule from the year you were born?

- 9 Read the Grammar focus box. Match the **highlighted** words in the article to uses 1-3.

GRAMMAR FOCUS articles

- 1 We use *a/an* with singular countable nouns to talk about a person or thing for the first time.
A time capsule is a special container.
- 2 We use *the* before a noun when the listener or reader knows what we are talking about. This can be because:
 - a we have talked about it before.
Teachers at a school ... when the school ...
 - b there is only one of the thing.
... the year 1912. (there was only one year 1912)
- 3 There is no article when you talk about plural and uncountable nouns in general or for the first time.
Time capsules are popular presents ... It contained information ...

→ Grammar Reference page 142

- 10 Complete the comments with *a/an, the* or *-* (= no article).

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Darío Ferrer Great news – I'm ¹ _____ uncle!! My nephew, Ariel, was born at 6.30 a.m. today. I want to make ² _____ time capsule for him to open when he's older. Any suggestions??

Like · Comment · Share · 11 hours ago

Yuko Akimoto You could put in coins from this year and ³ _____ newspaper story from ⁴ _____ day he was born. Or a CD with today's top hits?

Alex White I think ⁵ _____ music's a good idea, Yuko, but what if ⁶ _____ CD players don't exist when Ariel's an adult? How about ⁷ _____ photo from ⁸ _____ fashion magazine so he can laugh at ⁹ _____ fashion styles of this year when he's older!

Rafa Gonzalez You could include ¹⁰ _____ special messages from important people like his grandparents. Ask them to write ¹¹ _____ messages by hand!

Paula Escriva ¹² _____ supermarket receipts or cinema tickets are a good idea because they show ¹³ _____ cost of things today.

Darío Ferrer Thanks for the brilliant ideas, everybody!

- 11a **TASK** Work in a group. You are going to put together a time capsule to tell people in the future about your town, your country or the world this year. Choose six objects which you think are the most important.
- b Present your six objects to the class. Explain your choices.
 - c As a class, vote on which group has the best time capsule.

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