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An adjective is a word that modifies a noun. Adjectives add detail and description to help readers picture or sense what they are reading. There are different types of adjectives. In addition to the adjectives we normally think of (community centre, Metis history), there are the following categories:

Demonstrative adjectives point out specific people or things. They are this, these, that, and those. We use this and these to refer to objects close by, and that and those for objects further away.

For example: This store is advertised on that billboard.

Possessive adjectives indicate who or what owns something. They are my, your, his, her, and our.

For example: Our dog loves playing with your cat.

Interrogative adjectives modify nouns that are used in questions. They are which, what, and whose.

For example: Do you know which day he’s arriving?

A. Write the correct demonstrative adjective on the line provided.
1. It’s late, but I have to read another chapter. I love ______ this _______ book.
2. Those _________ clouds over there look threatening. I think it’s going to rain.
3. Do you like ______ these _______ bracelets I’m wearing? I made them!

B. Write the correct possessive adjective on the line provided.
1. David is late, and I can’t reach ______ his _______ cellphone.
2. Jamila should open a restaurant, because ______ her _______ pie is the best I’ve ever had.
3. I can’t get a decent shot on net. I think ______ my _______ scoring streak is over.

C. Write the correct interrogative adjective on the line provided.
1. We all have to bring food to the potluck. ______ What _______ are you bringing?
2. A red car is being towed out front. Do you know ______ whose _______ it is?
3. I love all of those bands. ______ Which _______ one is playing first?

D. Underline the adjectives in each sentence below. Do not include the articles the or a.
1. This pamphlet outlines various projects by government agencies for providing clean water.
2. Whose safety glasses were left on the storage cupboard for the power tools?
3. Wolverines live in Arctic regions, using their large, furry paws like snowshoes.
E. In each sentence below, add two adjectives to modify the noun in italics. Choose adjectives that help a reader picture what you describe.

1. The queen looked down at the ___________ clapping ___________ cheering ___________ crowd.
2. My favourite movie features a/an ___________ river ___________ spirit ___________ character.
3. After finishing the race, Sammy had a/an ___________ exhausted ___________ elated ___________ feeling.
4. Sasha and her friends went to the ___________ multicultural ___________ food ___________ festival.
5. We just moved to this ___________ quiet ___________ country ___________ neighbourhood.

F. Write a descriptive paragraph on a topic of your choice, or, if you need help with an idea, you could write about a time you were very proud of yourself or a family member. In your writing, use a variety of descriptive adjectives. When you’re done writing, circle them.

One time when I was very proud of myself is when I finished my first ________________ _________.

Terry Fox run. My mom ran as well, so I was extremely proud of her, too!

My mom and I decided to take part in the Terry Fox run when we were ________________ _________.

watching a short documentary about Terry Fox. Around that time, my ________________ _________.

brave aunt was getting treated for cancer. So, my mom and I decided ________________ _________.

to take part in the charity run.

Before the summer run, we knew we would have to prepare. First, we ________________ _________.

created a running schedule and we ran twice a week. We knew we ________________ _________.

would need comfortable running shoes so we bought matching blue ________________ _________.
pairs. We also made really healthy meals. We made sure to eat lots of ________________ _________.
green vegetables, whole grains, and lean meats.

When race day came, I was quite nervous. My mom and I wore yellow ________________ _________.
t-shirts, my aunt’s favourite colour. Once the race started, my stomach ________________ _________.
butterflies disappeared. The cheering crowds and my aunt’s smiling ________________ _________.
face made me super motivated. My mom and I ran at a steady pace and ________________ _________.

finished the run in one hour and fifteen minutes! We also raised a lot of ________________ _________.
money for cancer research.

G. With a partner, compare the sentences you completed in Exercise E. Discuss how the adjectives would affect the picture a reader might form when reading each sentence.

For some topics that students regularly struggle with, exercises provide for longer form writing so that students can demonstrate authentic learning. These longer form exercises allow for formative assessment opportunities, including self and peer assessment.

All lessons end with an application exercise that asks the student to go beyond the book to apply the skill in various manners, covering all stages of the writing process.