

52 Place (Adjectives)

Note: * generally used before a noun ** only used after a noun, generally with the verb *to be*
*** can be used before or after a noun

bustling: * full of activity and noise

A vibrant, bustling little town, full of local colour.

dark and dingy: *** dark and depressing (for rooms)

She showed me into her office, which was dark and dingy.

drab: *** grey and depressing

Malibrovich is nothing but a collection of drab tower blocks and dreary municipal buildings.

draughty: *** cold because cold currents of air continually enter it (under the door, through cracks in the window, etc)

A crumbling mansion full of large draughty rooms.

dreary: *** boring and depressing

Simon grew up in a dreary little town in the North.

gloomy: *** dark and depressing

You ought to do something about this room. It's so gloomy in here.

godforsaken: * horrible, boring and depressing (for towns/cities)

I used to live in a godforsaken town in the middle of nowhere.

musty: *** old and damp-smelling

We looked into the room. It was musty and huge cobwebs covered the walls and furniture.

picturesque: *** very pretty (for buildings/towns/villages)

She lives in a small, picturesque cottage near the sea.

plush: *** very comfortable and expensively decorated (for rooms/hotels/restaurants)

Hers was a life of luxury, of expensive holidays, five-star hotels and plush restaurants.

pok(e)y: *** uncomfortably small

There was only space for a bed and one chair. It was the pokiest room he had ever seen.

remote: *** far away from other towns/villages/people

We lived in a remote cottage in the middle of nowhere.

seedy: *** dirty and untidy and generally connected with illegal/immoral activities

It has changed from being a seedy part of town to a vibrant, upmarket area.

It is best to avoid the seedy side streets and stick to the main roads.

sleepy: * a very quiet place where
very little happens

She lives in a sleepy little village about twenty miles south of Dublin.

spacious: *** very large

The rooms upstairs are pretty small but the downstairs rooms are really quite spacious.

stuffy: *** lacking fresh air and unpleasant as a result

It's very stuffy in here. Do you mind if I open a window?

touristy: *** designed to attract tourists (with big hotels, nightclubs, shopping centres, etc) and lacking any local colour as a result

*I don't like that side of the island.
It's too touristy.*

unspoiled: *** has not lost its local character because of tourist developments

Further on down the coast, is Mar del Oro, an unspoiled fishing village.

Practice

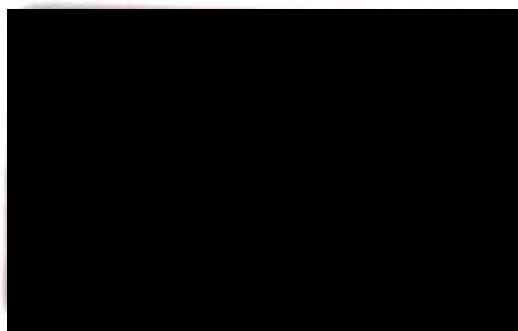
1. You will hear someone talking about their holiday. Listen to the recording and decide whether the statements below are true (T), or false (F).

- 1 The couple had wanted to go somewhere that was quite touristy.
- 2 Kingtown was a beautiful town.
- 3 Kingtown was a colourful town.
- 4 Kingtown was a remote town.
- 5 The couple had expected their hotel to be plush.
- 6 The hotel was situated in a good part of town.
- 7 The first room the couple were given was spacious.
- 8 The first room the couple were given smelt old and damp.
- 9 The second room the couple was given was better than the first room.
- 10 The couple liked Kingtown.

2. Look at the adjectives in bold below. When used to describe a room or a place, are they positive or negative in meaning? If you think an adjective is positive, write a P next to it. If you think it is negative, write an N. If you think an adjective has neither a positive nor negative connotation write an O. An example has been done for you.

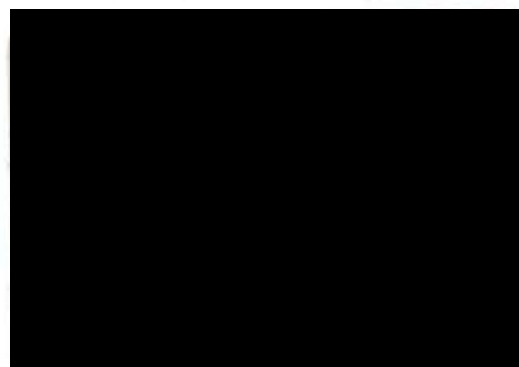
- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|-------|
| 0 | a stuffy room | N |
| 1 | a plush room/hotel | ..... |
| 2 | a picturesque town/village | ..... |
| 3 | a bustling town/village | ..... |
| 4 | a drab room/town | ..... |
| 5 | a remote village/country | ..... |
| 6 | a draughty room | ..... |
| 7 | a spacious room | ..... |
| 8 | a godforsaken place | ..... |
| 9 | a gloomy room | ..... |
| 10 | a dreary room/town | ..... |
| 11 | a pok(e)y room | ..... |
| 12 | a touristy town | ..... |
| 13 | a sleepy town/village | ..... |
| 14 | a seedy disco/part of town | ..... |
| 15 | a dark and dingy room | ..... |
| 16 | a musty room | ..... |
| 17 | an unspoiled village | ..... |

3. Now complete the following sentences with one of the adjectives above.



- Resort towns like Blackpool are far too for my liking.
- Open the window and let some fresh air in. It is very in here.
- With the gas works in the background and the High Street dominated by ugly high-rise buildings and multi-storey car parks, it's hardly what you would call a town.
- It's a nice room but it's a bit I was really looking for something a bit bigger.
- They had painted everything grey. I had never seen such a room in my life.
- Santa Clara is a(n) fishing village on the Atlantic coast of Costa Rica. No high-rise hotels, no tourists, no fast food restaurants.

- We couldn't afford one of those big hotels in the city centre, so we stayed in a bed and breakfast on the outskirts of town.
- Our next stop was San Pedro de las Almas, a small, town which straddled the Brazil - Paraguay border.
- Grey, boring, cheerless Dullstead. Of all the places they could have chosen to live in, why on earth did they pick Dullstead?
- It was a beautiful room with oak-panelled walls. Its only drawback was that it was very Cold air used to whistle in under the door.
- We were miles from anywhere, in a mountain village called Attawanga.
- Norman's Nosh Bar was a dark and café on the Seven Sisters Road. Despite the greasy walls and the overpowering smell of cooking fat, it was the most popular café in town.
- With the heavy velvet curtains drawn and the dark mahogany furniture, the room looked very
- The château is a delightful residence, with light-filled rooms.
- It was a cheerless northern industrial town, full of factories and terraced houses.
- They didn't feel safe in that ill-lit and part of the city.
- It was a small, fishing village on the Mediterranean coast, full of colour and noise.



4. a. Fill in the gaps in the descriptions using the words in the list below.

sleepy – touristy – picturesque – remote – bustling – unspoiled

Well, it's a bit 1), not the kind of 2) place that some people like for their holidays. No, the houses there are 4) and the village has a 5), 6) air about it. We loved it.

b. Using the paragraph as a model, describe a place you have visited and liked/didn't like.