




# ***A SPECIAL PLACE***



# Before you watch

1 Read the information about Heather and Sue. What kind of objects do you expect to find in their homes?

Heather is married to a company director and has two children. Heather met and married her husband, Michael, when she was twenty-four. She gave up a promising career in law to look after their traditional country house and bring up their children. Heather is interested in her family history and has kept many of her ancestor's possessions.



Sue is a teacher and writer, has one grown-up son and lives alone in a Victorian townhouse in the heart of England. Sue's family is very important to her and her son, brother, sisters and parents all live nearby. She has taught English for twenty years during which time she has travelled the world.



# While you watch

2 Watch the video and check your answers to exercise 1.  
Part 1 (01:01:04 – 01:04:54)

3 Watch Heather again and answer these questions.

- a) What has been in Heather's family for generations?
- b) Who did she get her oak table from?
- c) What does she say she is fond of?
- d) What other family heirloom does she mention?
- e) Who did her porcelain tea service use to belong to?
- f) What is her favourite part of the room ?
- g) What does she do before she has her morning coffee?

Part 2 (01:04:57 – 01:08:44)

4 Watch Sue again and answer these questions.

- a) What does she say she is fond of?
- b) Where exactly is the carving of her lizard?
- c) Which object did Sue fall in love with on her travels?
- d) Where did her stone lion come from?
- e) Which object has particular meaning for Sue?
- f) Who painted her portrait?
- g) What does she do in her room?



# After you watch

5 Divide these words into two groups: those used to describe small rooms and those used to describe big rooms.

spacious

poky

vast



airy

roomy

snug

cramped

cosy

6 Which of these words mean...

- a) small, warm and comfortable?
- b) small and uncomfortable?
- c) large?
- d) extremely large?

7 Work with a partner and use the words in 5 to describe...

- a) the room you are sitting in now.
- b) your bedroom.
- c) your living room.
- d) your kitchen.

8 Work in groups and discuss these questions.

- A) Did either of the rooms on the video look like they could be in your country?
- B) What looked similar and what looked different?
- C) Are the lifestyles of Sue and Heather similar to those in your country?
- D) What are the similarities and differences?
- E) What do their rooms tell us about Sue and Heather's characters?



# Language Toolbox

The room/lifestyle is similar to/different from...

In my country rooms are usually ...

The style of the room suggests that...

Rooms tell you a lot/ don't tell you much about...

Most people prefer...

