

Mistake #7 Forgetting to insert “的 (de)” in between adjectives and nouns

In English, you can use the same word “pretty” for both “She’ s pretty” and “She’ s a pretty girl” and nothing needs to change for the word “pretty” . But in Chinese, to use an adjective that contains more than one character (syllable) to describe a noun, you have to insert “的 (de)” in between the adjective and the noun. Why? I don’ t know. Just memorize this rule! ☺

Examples

English	Pinyin	Chinese Characters
She’ s pretty.	tā hěn piào liang 。	她很漂亮。
Pretty girl	piào liang de nǚ hái	漂亮的女孩
This movie is interesting	zhè ge diàn yǐng hěn yǒu yì si 。	这个电影很有意思。 這個電影很有意思。
Interesting movie	yǒu yì si de diàn yǐng	有意思的电影 有意思的電影
Cute cat	kě ài de māo	可爱的猫 / 可愛的貓
Kind person	shàn liáng de rén	善良的人

However, for adjective that only contains one character (syllable), you don’ t need to insert “的 (de)” .

English	Pinyin	Chinese Characters
Male student	nán xué shēng	男学生 / 男學生
Hot soup	rè tāng	热汤 / 熱湯
Small house	xiǎo fáng zi	小房子
Good person	hǎo rén	好人