

13 Possessive adjectives and pronouns



Excuse me. Is this your homework?

Oh, yes. It's mine. Thanks.

1 Form

	SINGULAR					PLURAL		
subject pronouns	<i>I</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>he</i>	<i>she</i>	<i>it</i>	<i>we</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>they</i>
possessive adjectives	<i>my</i>	<i>your</i>	<i>his</i>	<i>her</i>	<i>its</i>	<i>our</i>	<i>your</i>	<i>their</i>
possessive pronouns	<i>mine</i>	<i>yours</i>	<i>his</i>	<i>hers</i>	–	<i>ours</i>	<i>yours</i>	<i>theirs</i>

2 Possessive adjectives

Possessive adjectives tell us who things belong to. We put them before a noun:

Jenny is Christina and Michael Brown's daughter. → *Jenny is **their** daughter.*

Jenny's brother is called David. → ***Her** brother is called David.*

⚠ The possessive adjective depends on the noun it replaces, NOT the noun that follows it:

*John's father = **his** father*

*John's mother = **his** mother (X ~~her~~ mother)*

*Mary's father = **her** father (X ~~his~~ father)*

*Mary's mother = **her** mother*

We also use possessive adjectives with parts of the body:

*The children closed **their** eyes and listened to the story.*

*I'm tired and **my** legs hurt.*

Look at the difference between *its* and *it's*:

*I like Thailand. **It's** a beautiful country.* (it is)

*Thailand is famous for **its** beautiful beaches.* (the beaches of Thailand)

3 Possessive pronouns

We can use possessive pronouns instead of a possessive adjective + noun:

*Is that **your** mobile phone?* → *Is that **yours**?*

*No, it isn't **my** mobile phone.* → *No, it isn't **mine**.*

*It's **Clara's** mobile phone.* → *It's **hers**.*

*Can we borrow **your** umbrella?* *We forgot to bring **ours**.* (our umbrella)

⚠ We don't use *a*, *an*, *the* or apostrophes (') with possessive adjectives and pronouns:

X That pen is ~~her's~~. ✓ *That pen is **hers**.*

X This bedroom is ~~the mine~~. ✓ *This bedroom is **mine**.*

4 Whose?

We often use *Whose?* instead of 'Who does it belong to?':

*'Whose phone is this?' 'It's **Clara's**.'*

*'Whose are these?' 'I don't know – they aren't **mine**.'*