

7 Possessive adjectives and pronouns



1 Possessive adjectives and pronouns

Possessive adjectives and possessive pronouns tell us who things belong to.

*Are these **your** coffees?
Yes, thanks, they're **ours**.*

	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>- *</i>	<i>ours</i>	<i>yours</i>	<i>theirs</i>

* There is no possessive pronoun form of *it*: *The green bowl is (~~x its~~) the cat's.* (= It belongs to the cat.)

2 Possessive adjectives

We use possessive adjectives to replace a noun + 's (► Unit 6.2):

*Lewis is **Yolanda's** son. → Lewis is **her** son.*

*That's **my** grandparents' house. → That's **their** house.*

The possessive adjective depends on the noun it replaces:

***Brad's** son = **his** son **Brad's** daughter = **his** daughter (~~x her daughter~~)*

***Anna's** son = **her** son (~~x his son~~) **Anna's** daughter = **her** daughter*

We usually use possessive adjectives with parts of the body:

*Please raise **your hand** if you need more paper. **My back** is really painful today.*

! Remember that *its* is different from *it's* (= it is):

*The cat hasn't eaten **its** food. I think **it's** ill.* (= it is ill)

3 Possessive pronouns

If it's clear who/what we are talking about, we can use possessive pronouns.

They replace a possessive adjective and noun:

*The cappuccino is **mine**.* (my cappuccino)

*I didn't have a seat so Brad offered me **his**.* (his seat)

! We don't use *a*, *an*, *the* or 's with possessive adjectives and pronouns:

*~~x That's my passport and this is the your's.~~ ✓ **That's my passport and this is yours.***

4 a friend of John's, mine, hers, etc.

When someone has more than one of something, we can use *a/an* + noun +

- *of* + noun + 's: 'That's a good idea.' 'Actually, it was **an idea of John's**.' (one of John's ideas)

- *of* + possessive pronoun: *Gerald is **a cousin of mine** from Devon.* (one of my cousins)

*~~x a cousin of me / a cousin of my~~ ✓ **a cousin of mine***

To emphasise that something belongs to someone, we use *a/an* + noun

+ *my/your/our*, etc. *own*:

*I don't like sharing – I've always wanted **a flat of my own**.* (my flat, for me only)

*Fran and Chris have got **a small business of their own**.* (not owned by anyone else)