

1.2 Possessive determiners and possessive 's

Possessive determiners: my, your, etc.

GR1.2a »

<i>I'm a twin.</i>	<i>My twin sister lives in Zagreb.</i>
<i>You're not in this class today.</i>	<i>Your class is in room 401.</i>
<i>He's from a big family.</i>	<i>His brothers live in Singapore.</i>
<i>She's a good friend.</i>	<i>Her name is Hannah.</i>
<i>It's a typical French village.</i>	<i>It's famous for its food.</i>
<i>We're fluent in Chinese.</i>	<i>Our father is from Shanghai.</i>
<i>They're my half sisters.</i>	<i>Their names are Kana and Keiko.</i>

Personal pronoun	I	you	he	she	it	we	they
Possessive determiner	my	your	his	her	its	our	their

We use a possessive determiner to say that something or someone belongs to a person, a place or a thing. The possessive determiner always comes before a noun or a noun phrase.

We use ...

- *his* to say that something or someone belongs to a man/boy
John loves his daughter.
NOT ~~John loves her daughter.~~
- *her* to say that something or someone belongs to a woman/girl
Amari and her husband are here.
NOT ~~Amari and his husband are here.~~
- *its* to say that something or someone belongs to a thing
The city is famous for its universities.
NOT ~~The city is famous for their universities.~~
- Possessive determiners have one form for singular and plural, e.g. *our friend/our friends* NOT ~~ours friends.~~

it's = its

It's (= It is) a big city.

Its (possessive) buildings are beautiful.

Possessive 's

GR1.2b »

- Sam is my father's boss.
- They are my children's cars.
- Bob and Paula are my parents' friends.
- Petra and Bill's new house is big.

We use the possessive 's to say that something or someone belongs to a person, a place or a thing. The possessive 's always comes after a noun.

- With regular plural nouns we use ' not 's, e.g. *They're my parents' friends.* NOT ~~They're my parent's friends.~~
- If there is more than one subject, we put the 's on the last name, e.g. *Sara and Ricardo's daughter.* NOT ~~Sara's and Ricardo's daughter.~~

John's in the office. (= is)

John's office is big. (= the office that belongs to John)

- Complete the sentences with a possessive determiner.

- My brother has a daughter. Her name is Brigitte.
- I have two nephews. Their names are Tim and Ned.
- Dubai is famous for its tall buildings.
- My teacher is from New Zealand and his wife is from Tasmania.
- You're in room 14 and the teacher's name is Angela.
- We're Mexican, but our parents live in Brazil.
- I'm from Sweden and my name is Oskar.
- 'Is this your book?' 'Oh, yes, it is! Thank you.'

- Make possessive forms by adding 's or '.

- My country 's people are happy.
- My two brothers 's cars are expensive.
- We're Peter and Vera 's neighbours.
- Are these Lucas 's glasses?
- This is their grandparents 's house.
- They are his grandson 's pencils.
- These are our bosses 's offices.

- Circle the correct option.

- The mechanic's car / mechanics car is very nice.
- This is my aunt and uncle's / aunt's and uncle's house.
- His / He's my daughter's teacher.
- Maria and her / their parents live in Portugal.
- Tom is Magda's nephew / nephew's Magda.
- Jane's children / Jane's children's speak Mandarin.
- My glasses / My glasses' are in the classroom.
- It's famous for it's / its music.

- Complete the text about Balinese names using the words in the box.

are child's father's husband's ~~it's~~ is its mother's names Our their

Hi! I'm Wayan and ¹ I'm Balinese. Bali ² is an island in Indonesia. It's famous for ³ its music and dancing. In a Balinese family, the first child's name is Wayan, Putu or Gede. It's the same for a boy or a girl. The second ⁴ child's name is Made, Kadek or Nengah. The third is Nyoman or Komang and the fourth is Ketut. If there is a fifth child, he or she is often called Wayan Balik (= Wayan 'again'). Balinese do not usually use last names.

In my family there ⁵ are six children. We all have typical Balinese names. I have two sisters, ⁶ their names are Wayan and Komang, and three brothers, Ketut, Made and Putu. ⁷ Our parents' ⁸ names are Ketut and Ketut. Women have the title 'Ni' before their name, so my ⁹ mother's name is Ni Ketut, and men use 'I', so my ¹⁰ father's name is I Ketut. My sister, Komang, is married and her ¹¹ husband's name is also Komang.