

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>—</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.'

Practice

1 Complete the questions in each line so they have the same meaning.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 0 Does this book belong to you? | Is this <i>your</i> book? | Is this <i>yours</i> ? |
| 1 Is this Mary's book? | Is this book? | Is this? |
| 2 Is this the children's book? | Is this book? | Is this? |
| 3 Does this book belong to me? | Is this book? | Is this? |
| 4 Does this book belong to us? | Is this book? | Is this? |
| 5 Is this Peter's book? | Is this book? | Is this? |
| 6 Who does this book belong to? | book is this? | is this? |

2 GRAMMAR IN USE Choose the correct words in *italics* in the text.

I live next door to (0) *(my)* / *me* friend David and (1) *his* / *her* sister, Fiona. David is in (2) *ours* / *our* class at college; he's taller than Fiona and (3) *the* / *his* hair is darker. Fiona's two years older than (4) *his* / *her* brother. She's an art student and she's always got paint on (5) *the* / *her* fingers! (6) *Theirs* / *Their* house is small but (7) *it's* / *its* garden is beautiful, and (8) *their* / *theirs* barbecues are always great fun!

3 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the conversation with the correct words from the box.

- A Is this your suitcase, Sir?
 B Yes. It's (0) *mine*.
 A Can you open it for me, please? OK. Are these (1) clothes?
 B Some of them are (2) clothes, but some of them belong to my wife.
 A Is this dress (3)?
 B Yes, she bought it in Thailand.
 A There are a lot of toys here. (4) are they?
 B They belong to (5) daughter.
 A What about all this money. Is it (6)?
 B Oh, no, it isn't (7)!

hers mine my our
ours whose your yours



4 Write questions and answers. Use possessive adjectives and pronouns.

- 0 that / you / phone? / No / it / not me / she *Is that your phone? No, it isn't mine, it's hers.*
 00 who / pens / these? / They / she *Whose pens are these? They're hers.*
 1 this / he / book? / No / it / not he / she ?
 2 who / drinks / these? / They / they ?
 3 that / she / iPod? / It / not she / me ?
 4 who / ticket / this? / It / you ?