

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))

- 1 Sam is my father's boss.
- 2 They are my children's cars.
- 3 Bob and Paula are my parents' friends.
- 4 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)

1 Complete the sentences with a possessive determiner.

- 1 My brother has a daughter. *Her* name is Brigitte.
- 2 I have two nephews. ____ names are Tim and Ned.
- 3 Dubai is famous for ____ tall buildings.
- 4 My teacher is from New Zealand and ____ wife is from Tasmania.
- 5 You're in room 14 and ____ teacher's name is Angela.
- 6 We're Mexican, but ____ parents live in Brazil.
- 7 I'm from Sweden and ____ name is Oskar.
- 8 'Is this ____ book?' 'Oh, yes, it is! Thank you.'

2 Make possessive forms by adding 's or '.

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

3 Circle the correct option.

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

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

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

Hi! I'm Wayan and 1 *I'm* Balinese. Bali 2 ____ an island in Indonesia. It's famous for 3 ____ 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 ____ 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 ____ six children. We all have typical Balinese names. I have two sisters, 6 ____ names are Wayan and Komang, and three brothers, Ketut, Made and Putu. 7 ____ parents' 8 ____ are Ketut and Ketut. Women have the title 'Ni' before their name, so my 9 ____ name is Ni Ketut, and men use 'I', so my 10 ____ name is I Ketut. My sister, Komang, is married and her 11 ____ name is also Komang.