

13 Possessive adjectives and pronouns



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.'

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)
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)



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
..... ?