

# Possessive Adjectives and Possessive Pronouns (Beginner to Intermediate English Grammar Lesson)—With Detailed Grammar charts

(Level A1-A2-B1)

Hi and welcome!

In today's beginner grammar lesson, you will learn more about the difference between **Possessive Adjectives** and **Possessive Pronouns**.

If you have not read the previous short story entitled '**The Possessive Wife**', do read it because we tackled this grammatical concept.

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to use **Possessive Adjectives** and **Possessive Pronouns** correctly.

Now take a pen and a piece of paper and let's get started!

## Step 1: Possessive Adjectives and Possessive Pronouns—First Things First!

How much do you know about **Possessive Adjectives** and **Possessive Pronouns**? Do the quiz below to find out!

(Quiz on website: <https://learnenglishwithafrica.com>)

## Step 2: Possessive Adjectives and Possessive Pronouns—Some Definitions

SUBJECT	PERSONAL PRONOUNS (SUBJECT)	PERSONAL PRONOUNS (OBJECT)	POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES	POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS
1 <sup>st</sup> person singular	I	ME	MY	MINE
2 <sup>nd</sup> person singular	YOU	YOU	YOUR	YOURS
3 <sup>rd</sup> person singular	HE/SHE/IT	HIM/HER/IT	HIS/HER/ITS	HIS/HERS/ITS
1 <sup>st</sup> person plural	WE	US	OUR	OURS
2 <sup>nd</sup> person plural	YOU	YOU	YOUR	YOURS
3 <sup>rd</sup> person plural	THEY	THEM	THEIR	THEIRS



Before we look at what **Possessive Adjectives** and **Possessive Pronouns** are, let's start with a few important definitions.

**Possessive:** This is a word that shows ownership.

**Adjective:** This is a word that modifies a noun. It can be placed before or after the noun it modifies. E.g. This is a **big** house. The house is **big**.

**Possessive Adjective:** This is an Adjective that shows ownership. It is always followed by the noun it modifies. E.g. **My mother** is tall.

**Personal Pronoun (Subject):** This is a word that replaces a noun or a noun phrase. E.g. The man is cutting the grass. **He** is cutting the grass. (**'He'** is a **Personal Pronoun Subject** and refers to the man. **'He'** is the one doing the action, therefore we call **'He'** the **Subject**).

**Personal Pronoun Object:** The man is cutting the grass. The man is cutting **it**. **'It'** is the **Personal Pronoun Object**. **'It'** is said to be the **Object** because an action is being performed on it. **'It'** is like a 'victim' here.

**Possessive Pronoun:** This is a Pronoun that shows ownership. A **Possessive Pronoun** is independent and is never followed by a noun. E.g. This is my car. This car is mine. This is mine.

## Possessive Adjectives: Special Characteristics

- They indicate ownership. E.g. Their bags/suitcases/house, etc.
- They show a relationship such as in families or at the workplace. E.g. His mother, his wife, his daughter, etc.
- They are always followed by a noun. E.g. **Her pen** is blue.
- They agree in number and gender possessor. E.g. A woman who possesses a pencil. (Her pen/pens).
- They always remain the same and do not change to match the gender or number of the noun they are modifying. E.g. **Her** pencil/**her** pen/her daughter/her car/her pencils/her pens/her daughters/her cars, etc. In French, this would be : **son** crayon/**son** stylo/**sa** fille/**sa** voiture/**ses** crayons/**ses** stylos/**ses** filles/**ses** voitures, etc.
- The **Possessive Adjective 'Its'** has got no apostrophe. E.g. Its bone. In English, **'It's** can be=**It is** or **It has**.
- The **Possessive Adjective 'Their'** has got no apostrophe. E.g. Their house. In English, **'They're'** and **'There'** sound like **'Their'** but they mean two different things. **'They're'** is **'They are'** and **'There'** is an **Adverb of place**.
- Possessive Adjectives are also called Possessive Determiners because they come before nouns.

Answer the following question: Why do we use **Possessive Adjectives** and **Possessive Pronouns**?

## Possessive Pronouns: Special Characteristics

- They show ownership. E.g. This is his.
- They replace a noun or a noun phrase to avoid repetition. E.g. That is his **car**. That is his./ This my **new dress**. It's mine.
- They can stand alone. Besides, they are not followed by any noun. E.g. This is my pencil. This pencil is mine. This is mine.

## RECAP: Personal Pronouns and Possessive Adjectives

PERSONAL PRONOUN SUBJECT	PERSONAL PRONOUN OBJECT	POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVE
I	ME	MY
YOU	YOU	YOUR
HE/SHE/IT	HIM/HER/IT	HIS/HER/ITS
WE	US	OUR
YOU	YOU	YOUR
THEY	THEM	THEIR

## RECAP: Personal Pronouns and Possessive Pronouns

PERSONAL PRONOUN SUBJECT	PERSONAL PRONOUN OBJECT	POSSESSIVE PRONOUN
I	ME	MINE
YOU	YOU	YOURS
HE/SHE/IT	HIM/HER/IT	HIS/HERS
WE	US	OURS
YOU	YOU	YOURS
THEY	THEM	THEIRS

## Step 3: Possessive Adjectives and Possessive Pronouns—Examples

PERSONAL PRONOUNS	POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES	EXAMPLES IN CONTEXT	POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS	EXAMPLES IN CONTEXT
I	MY	This is my car.	MINE	This car is mine.
YOU	YOUR	This is your car.	YOURS	This car is yours.
HE/SHE/IT	HIS/HER/ITS	This is his/her/its toy.	HIS/HER/ITS	This toy is his/hers.
WE	OUR	This is our car.	OURS	This car is ours.
YOU	YOUR	This is your car.	YOURS	This car is yours.
THEY	THEIR	This is their car.	THEIRS	This car is theirs.



## Possessive Adjectives: Examples

- My girlfriend is cute.
- Your teacher is kind.
- His dog is funny.
- Her pen is expensive.
- Its bone is tasty.
- Our house is huge.
- Your school is popular.
- Their bags are colourful.

**Your Turn:** Can you make 1 example with each **Possessive Adjective**?

## Possessive Pronouns: Examples

- That pink house is mine.
- Yours is blue.
- His is purple.
- Hers is yellow.
- Ours is green.
- Yours is black.
- Theirs is brown.

You can also say:

- This is mine.
- Is this yours?
- Is it his? Or is it hers?
- That is ours.
- This is yours.
- It's/It is theirs.

**Your Turn:** Can you make 1 example with each **Possessive Pronoun**?

This is the end of the lesson on **Possessive Adjectives** and **Possessive Pronouns**. I hope you enjoyed it!

If you have any questions, you can contact us using the **'Contact'** page of the website.

Until next time!

Take care!



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