

12 Possessive forms of nouns



1 Noun + 's or '

We use noun + 's or ' to show that something belongs to someone.

singular nouns	add 's	John → John's (car) James → James's (phone) my mother → my mother's (garden)
plural nouns that end in s	add '	boys → boys' (school) birds → birds' (eggs) parents → parents' (house)
plural nouns that don't end in s	add 's	children → children's (books) men → men's (clothes) people → people's (names)

We use noun + 's or ' for people and animals:

*I'm using my **friend's** mobile phone.* (the phone belongs to my friend)

***Clara's** brother is **Marco's** teacher. What is your **cat's** name? This is my **parents'** car.*

We can use noun + 's or ' alone

- when the meaning is clear:
*'Is this Lucy's mobile phone?' 'No, it's **Amanda's**.'* (Amanda's phone)
*That isn't our cat. It's our **neighbours'**.* (our neighbours' cat)
- for people's homes:
*Shall we go to **Sally's**?* (Sally's house)
- to talk about some shops and services:
*I need to go to the **doctor's**.*
*Are you going to the **butcher's**?*

2 of + noun

We usually use *of* + noun for things and places:

*We visited the centre **of Madrid**. What happens at the end **of the film**?*

*What's the size **of the screen** on your TV? What's the height **of Mount Everest**?*



We don't usually use *of* + noun for people:

*✗ He is the brother **of Clare**. ✓ He is **Clare's** brother.*



We don't usually use noun + 's or ' for things:

*✗ I **didn't** see the film's end. ✓ I didn't see the end **of the film**.*

Practice

1 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the sentences with noun + 's or ' . 2.25 Listen and check.

Ann and Frank are married.

Ann is (0) *Frank's* wife. Frank is (1) husband.

Ann has two children, Mike and Lucy.

Lucy is (2) daughter. Mike is (3) brother.

Ann has brown hair but the children have blond hair.

(4) hair is brown but the (5) hair is blond.

The family has two cats called Spike and Susie.

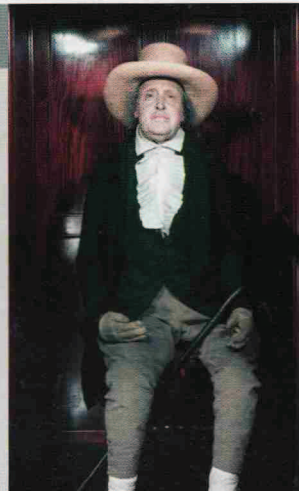
The (6) names are Spike and Susie.

2 GRAMMAR IN USE Choose the correct words in *italics* in the text. 2.26 Listen and check.

The oldest student in the world?

IF YOU VISIT (0) *London's University* / *the University of London* you'll have a surprise. This university has a student who is 250 years old! The student's name is Jeremy Bentham. He sits in a box at the (1) *main building's end* / *end of the main building*. He can watch the other students and listen to the lecturers through the (2) *box's glass front* / *glass front of the box*. Of course, he isn't a real student because he died in 1832.

Jeremy Bentham was a famous writer who believed in free education for everybody. (3) *Bentham's ideas* / *The ideas of Bentham* encouraged people to start new universities. After he died, they put (4) *Jeremy's body* / *the body of Jeremy* in a glass box in the (5) *college's centre* / *centre of the college*, so he can be a student forever.



3 Find five more mistakes in the sentences and correct them. Tick (✓) the correct sentences.

- 0 I am interested in ~~the Scotland~~ *geography*. *the geography of Scotland*
- 1 I live eight kilometres from the Paris's centre.
- 2 My mother's name is Alice.
- 3 I like watching womens' sports events on TV.
- 4 We sometimes have lunch at Carol's.
- 5 What is the computer's size?
- 6 Do you know the age of Diana?
- 7 Where is the bowl of your cat?

4 Write sentences 1–4 from Exercise 3 so they are true for you. Use possessive forms.

- 0 *I am interested in the history of my country.*
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

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>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 *your* book? Is this *yours*?
- 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. 2.27 Listen and check.

- A Is this your suitcase, Sir?
- B Yes. It's (0) *mine* hers mine my our
ours whose your yours
- 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.

2.28 Listen and check.

- 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
..... ?

14 *this, that, these, those*



1 Form

	ADJECTIVE (BEFORE A NOUN)	PRONOUN (WITHOUT A NOUN)
singular	<i>This coat is expensive.</i> <i>That building is beautiful.</i>	<i>This is expensive.</i> <i>That is beautiful.</i>
plural	<i>These coats are expensive.</i> <i>Those buildings are beautiful.</i>	<i>These are expensive.</i> <i>Those are beautiful.</i>

We use a singular verb after *this/that* and a plural verb after *these/those*.

2 Near or far?

We use *this* and *these* to talk about things that are near us:

*Excuse me. Is **this** seat free?* (the seat near us)

*I need some new glasses – **these** are broken.* (the glasses I am holding)

We use *that* and *those* for things that are not near us:

*Look at the sky – **that's** the North Star.*

*I'd like some pens – how much are **those** on the top shelf?*

3 Now or then?

We also use *this/these* to talk about now or a time that is near us:

***This** lesson is interesting.* (the lesson we are in now)

*I hate **these** cold winter days.* (the winter days we have now)

*I'm doing a lot of exercise **these** days.* (at the present time)

*What are you doing **this** evening?* (It's the morning or afternoon now.)

We use *that/those* to talk about a situation in the past:

*What did you think of **that** lesson yesterday?*

*There were no cars in **those** days.* (at a time in the past)

4 *this is/is that ... ?*

We use *this is ...* to introduce someone:

*Peter, **this is** Jane.*

We use *this is ...* and *is that ... ?* on the phone:

*'Hello, can I speak to Joan?' '**This is** Joan speaking.'*

*'Is **that** Angela?' 'No, she isn't here at the moment.'*

Practice

1 Look at the picture and tick (✓) the things which belong to Darren.



Yes, these are our coats and this is my scarf.

But, those are my gloves and that's my umbrella.

2 Match the sentences 1 and 2 with A and B in each group.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 0 1 What's your opinion of that film? | → | A The film we are watching now. |
| 2 What do you think of this film? | → | B The film we watched yesterday. |
| 1 1 I don't like this car. | | A The car we are in now. |
| 2 I don't like that car. | | B The car in the garage window. |
| 2 1 Do you like those flowers? | | A The flowers in my hand. |
| 2 Do you like these flowers? | | B The flowers in my neighbour's garden. |
| 3 1 Are these phones expensive? | | A The phones we are looking at. |
| 2 Are those phones expensive? | | B The phones we looked at last week. |

3 Complete the sentences. Use *this*, *that*, *these* or *those*. 2.29 Listen and check.

- 0*Those*..... phones in the window look really smart.
- 1 Do you like ring? My sister gave it to me.
- 2 What did you think of DVD we saw yesterday?
- 3 I'd like two of cakes – the ones on the top shelf.
- 4 Theatre tickets are very expensive days.
- 5 Could you help me? books are very heavy.
- 6 In days, children often worked in factories.

4 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the conversations with *this*, *that*, *these* or *those* and the correct form of the verbs in brackets (). 2.30 Listen and check.

- 1 A Let me introduce my colleagues. (0) ..*These are*... (be) my assistants, Sue and Joe.
B Pleased to meet you.
A And (1) (be) our office manager, Mike.
B Hello, Mike. So, where is your boss?
A (2) (be) my boss, Eleanor, over there in the corner of the room.
- 2 A Hello. Can I speak to Mrs Hargreaves?
B (3) (be) Mrs Hargreaves speaking. Can I help you?
- 3 A Here are the two keys. (4) (open) the front and back doors.
B What about the keys for the balcony door and the car?
A Oh, (5) (be) in the cupboard in the kitchen.
B And where's the key for the garage?
A Oh, (6) (not have) a lock, so there's no key.