

Possessive Pronouns

Possessive pronouns are sometimes called *possessive adjectives*. No matter what you call them, their use is clear and simple. Just like reflexive pronouns, possessive pronouns have personal pronoun counterparts. Look at this table of pronouns to see the relationship:

Subject	Object	Possessive 1	Possessive 2
I	me	my	mine
you	you	your	yours
he	him	his	his
she	her	her	hers
it	it	its	its
we	us	our	ours
they	them	their	theirs

There is a difference in the use of the possessive pronouns 1 and 2. The possessive pronoun 1 always stands before a noun and modifies it. The possessive pronoun 2 replaces a possessive pronoun 1 and a noun, when the noun is understood. Look at these examples:

<i>My</i> gift is unusual.	Which gift is <i>mine</i> ? (my gift)
Is this <i>your</i> brother?	The seat on the right will be <i>yours</i> . (your seat)
<i>Our</i> friends live here.	These two dogs are <i>ours</i> . (our dogs)
<i>His</i> aunt is a doctor.	<i>His</i> is a doctor. (his aunt)
<i>Her</i> dress is very nice.	<i>Hers</i> is very nice. (her dress)

Possessive pronouns tell to whom or to what something belongs.

Exercise 17-1

Change the possessive pronoun 1 to a possessive pronoun 2 and omit the noun.

EXAMPLE: She has my book.
She has mine.

1. The car on the corner is my car.

2. Was this your house?

3. The invading soldiers searched their house.

4. Did Dee find her briefcase?

5. Our relatives have lived in Brazil for a long time.

6. His boss is fair with everyone.

7. These problems are entirely his problems.

8. I need your advice.

9. My landlord is going to raise the rent.

10. Their long conversations made no sense.

Exercise 17-2

Change the italicized word or phrase to the possessive pronoun counterpart of the subject of the sentence.

EXAMPLE: He likes *the* new car.

He likes his new car.

1. The women want to visit *some* relatives in Europe.

2. She takes *the* children for a long walk.

3. Do you have *the* tools in the truck?

4. I sent *the* address and telephone number to the office.

5. We want *this one*.

6. The picture fell out of *the* frame.

7. They spend *a lot of* time in Canada.

8. Are you selling *these*?

9. I left some papers in *the* apartment.

10. Jose found *the* wallet under the bed.

Exercise 17-3

Circle the boldface word that best completes each sentence.

1. Did you leave yours/mine/your keys on the desk?

2. Her brother met his/her/their wife in Paris.

3. This book is our/his/her, and that one belongs to Smita.
4. Where did they buy theirs/blouse/its?
5. I believe I forgot mine/her/my again.
6. My sister gave mine/her/its watch to me.
7. I saw your tickets, but where are her/my/ours?
8. Hers/Theirs/His uncle is coming to America to live.
9. The fox hurt its/hers/front foot in a trap.
10. May I have hers/my/mine dinner now?