

# Possessive Pronouns

A pronoun is a word that is used to take the place of a noun. They make sentences shorter and easier to say.

A possessive pronoun is a word that takes the place of names of someone or something and shows possession. Possessive pronouns (all besides for “one’s”) do not require apostrophes. Here is a list of possessive pronouns:

My	Mine	Our(s)	Your(s)	His	Her(s)	Its	Their(s)	Whose	One’s
----	------	--------	---------	-----	--------	-----	----------	-------	-------

Note: In this exercise, what are sometimes referred to as “Possessive Adjectives” fall under the general heading “Possessive Pronouns” for simplicity.

*Read the conversations below to get an idea about how possessive pronouns are used:*

**Albert:** Is this my cup of water?

**Linda:** No, I don’t think so.

**Albert:** Whose is it then?

**Linda:** I think it is theirs.

**Albert:** Oh, where is mine then?

**Linda:** Yours is over there.

**Albert:** Oh, okay.

**Jaime:** Here is a picture of my girlfriend.

**Pria:** Oh that is nice. Where did you take her picture?

**Jamie:** I took it at Duke Forest. That is our favorite place.

**Pria:** Do they have nice trees in Duke Forest?

**Jamie:** Yes, their trees are very nice.

**My:** The pronoun “my” is used to describe something that belongs to me. “My” must be followed by the noun possessed.

**Example:** These are my rings.

In this example, the pronoun “my” shows that the “rings” belong to me.

**Directions:** try to make your own sentences using the pronoun “my”.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

**Mine:** The pronoun “mine” is used to describe something that belongs to me. “Mine” takes the place of the noun it possesses. Therefore, it is never followed by a noun.

Example: The keys are mine.

In this example, the pronoun “mine” shows that the “keys” belong to me.

Directions: try to make your own sentences using the pronoun “mine”.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

**Our:** The pronoun “our” is used to describe something that belongs to us. “Our” must be followed by the noun possessed.

Example: Our house is white.

In this example, the pronoun “Our” shows that the “house” belong to us.

Directions: try to make your own sentences using the pronoun “our”.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

**Ours:** The pronoun “ours” is used to describe something that belongs to us. “Ours” takes the place of the noun it possesses. Therefore, it is never followed by a noun.

Example: The money is ours.

In this example, the pronoun “ours” shows that the “money” belongs to us.

Directions: try to make your own sentences using the pronoun “ours”.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

**Your:** The pronoun “your” is used to describe something that belongs to you. “Your” must be followed by the noun possessed.

Example: This is your shoe.

In this example, the pronoun “your” shows that the “shoe” belong to you.

Directions: try to make your own sentences using the pronoun “your”.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

**Yours:** The pronoun “yours” is used to describe something that belongs to us. “Yours” takes the place of the noun it possesses. Therefore, it is never followed by a noun.

Example: The car is yours.

In this example, the pronoun “yours” shows that the “car” belongs to you.

Directions: try to make your own sentences using the pronoun “yours”.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

**His:** The pronoun “his” is used to describe something that belongs to a male. “His” may take the place of the noun it possesses, or it may not.

Example: That pencil is his.

In this example, the pronoun “his” shows that the “pencil” belongs to him.

Directions: try to make your own sentences using the pronoun “his”.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

**Her:** The pronoun “her” is used to describe something that belongs to a female. “Her” must be followed by the noun possessed.

Example: Her hair is brown.

In this example, the pronoun “Her” shows that the “hair” belong to a female.

Directions: try to make your own sentences using the pronoun “her”.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_

**Hers:** The pronoun “hers” is used to describe something that belongs to a female. “Hers” takes the place of the noun it possesses. Therefore, it is never followed by a noun.

Example: This pen is hers.

In this example, the pronoun “hers” shows that the “pen” belongs to a female.

Directions: try to make your own sentences using the pronoun “hers”.

- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_

**Its:** The pronoun “its” is used to describe something that belongs to it. “Its” must be followed by the noun possessed.

Example: Here is its arm.

In this example, the pronoun “its” shows that the “arm” belongs to it.

Directions: try to make your own sentences using the pronoun “its”.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_

**Their:** The pronoun “their” is used to describe something that belongs to them. “Their” must be followed by the noun possessed.

Example: Where are their tickets?

In this example, the pronoun “their” shows that the “tickets” belong to them.

Directions: try to make your own sentences using the pronoun “their”.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

**Theirs:** The pronoun “theirs” is used to describe something that belongs to them. “Theirs” takes the place of the noun it possesses. Therefore, it is never followed by a noun.

Example: The cats are theirs.

In this example, the pronoun “theirs” shows that the “cats” belong to them.

Directions: try to make your own sentences using the pronoun “theirs”.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

**Whose:** The pronoun “whose” is used to describe something that belongs to an unknown. “Whose” must be followed by the noun possessed.

Example: Do you know whose dictionary this is?

In this example, the pronoun “whose” shows that the “dictionary” belong to an unknown.

Directions: try to make your own sentences using the pronoun “whose”.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

**One’s:** The pronoun “one’s” is used to describe something that belongs to a universal individual. “One’s” must be followed by the noun possessed.

Example: It is a good idea to save one’s money.

In this example, the pronoun “one’s” shows that the “money” belongs to a universal individual.

Directions: try to make your own sentences using the pronoun “one’s”.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** now try to use what you have learned about possessive pronouns to fill in the empty spaces below.

This weekend I am going to the beach. I am not sure which car I should take. I could take \_\_\_\_ mother's car but I am not sure if \_\_\_\_\_ is running properly. I think I will take \_\_\_\_ father's car because \_\_\_\_\_ is new and is running well. I definitely cannot take \_\_\_\_\_ because I crashed it last week when I was driving too fast.

I also need to take some sun block with me. I don't have time to buy some myself, so I guess I will ask \_\_\_\_ neighbors if I can borrow \_\_\_\_\_. I could use the sun block that I found at school but I am scared to use it because I don't know \_\_\_\_\_ it used to be. I just know that it is important to always cover \_\_\_\_ body in sun block before being exposed to intense sunlight.