

## Possessive Adjectives

### Introduction

1) An adjective is a word or set of words that modifies (i.e. describes) a noun (e.g. girl, boy etc.) or pronoun (e.g. we, it etc.). Adjectives may come before or after the word they modify.

*This is a **cute** cat. This cat is **cute**.*

2) There are many kinds of adjectives. Among them there is a category of limiting adjectives. They help to define or 'limit' a noun or pronoun by telling which one, what kind, or how many.

***This** sandwich is delicious.*

In the category of limiting adjectives there are possessive adjectives. Possessive adjectives modify the noun following it in order to show possession. These adjectives are *my, your, his, her, its, our, their*.

*I told **my** friend that I like someone, then she told that to **her** friend, and that friend told that to **his** friends, and now everyone knows everything.*

*Here is a chart to help you learn which possessive adjective to use.*

Person	Subject	Object	Possessive Adjective	Possessive Pronoun
First Singular	I	me	<b>my (cat)</b>	mine
Second Singular	You	you	<b>your (cat)</b>	yours
Third Singular	He	him	<b>his (cat)</b>	his
	She	her	<b>her (cat)</b>	hers
	It	it	<b>its (cat)</b>	its
First Plural	We	us	<b>our (cat)</b>	ours
Second Plural	They	them	<b>Their (cat)</b>	theirs
Third Plural	You	you	<b>your (cat)</b>	yours

The possessive adjective needs to agree with the possessor and not with the thing that is possessed. However, the verb that is used needs to be in agreement with the noun – if the noun is singular then the verb is singular; if the noun is plural then the verb is plural.

*She has a boyfriend. **Her** boyfriend is very kind.*

*Peter likes to cook. **His** cooking skills are great.*

Possessive adjectives are often confused with possessive pronouns. A possessive adjective is used to describe a noun, and it comes before it. On the other hand, a possessive pronoun is used instead of a noun.

***Your** car is black. (**Your** is an adjective which modifies the word 'car'.)*

***Mine** is white. (**Mine** is a pronoun which functions as the subject of the sentence.)*

Do not confuse *its* and *it's*. *Its* is the possessive adjective for *it*. *It's* is a contraction of *it is*.

***It is** a beautiful day. = **It's** a beautiful day.*

*The dog was wiggling **its** tail.*

Do not confuse *their* and *they're*. *Their* is the possessive adjective for *they*. *They're* is a contraction of *they are*.

***They are** best friends. = **They're** best friends.*

*I wanted to see **their** performance.*

### Short Story Dialogue

*– Hey, have you seen **my** phone anywhere?*

*– No, I haven't seen it. Maybe you should check **your** backpack – when I lose **my** phone, it's usually there!*

*– I can't seem to find it there though. Could you call me?*

*– Yeah, sure. I think I have **your** number.*

*– I don't want to use **our** company phone for personal matters. And I really hope that I haven't lost **my** phone somewhere.*

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### Independent Practice - Possessive Adjectives

**1) Fill in the gaps with *my, your, his, her, its, our, their*.**

- a. Peter is from the UK. .... wife is from the US.
- b. These students didn't do ..... homework.
- c. Look at the kitten! Look at ..... tiny paws!
- d. Mary loves ..... grandfather a lot. She visits him every week.
- e. Pam and Kate go to high school. .... little brother goes to nursery school.
- f. We go to the same school. .... school is amazing!
- g. I don't like ..... haircut. I think it doesn't suit me.

**2) Fill in the gaps with *it's, its, they're, their*.**

- a. .... such a nice day! Maybe we could go to the beach.
- b. .... parents are very strict. They never let them go out with us late at night.
- c. Sorry, but I can't believe it. .... so kind to everyone!

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### Independent Practice: Answers - Possessive Adjectives

#### 1) Fill in the gaps with *my, your, his, her, its, our, their*.

- a. Peter is from the UK. **His** wife is from the US.
- b. These students didn't do **their** homework.
- c. Look at the kitten! Look at **its** tiny paws!
- d. Mary loves **her** grandfather a lot. She visits him every week.
- e. Pam and Kate go to high school. **Their** little brother goes to nursery school.
- f. We go to the same school. **Our** school is amazing!
- g. I don't like **my** haircut. I think it doesn't suit me.

#### 2) Fill in the gaps with *its, it's, they're, their*.

- a. **It's** such a nice day! Maybe we could go to the beach.
- b. **Their** parents are very strict. They never let them go out with us late at night.
- c. Sorry, but I can't believe it. **They're** so kind to everyone!