

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
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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.