

UNIT 83 Possessive adjectives and pronouns

(my, your... / mine, yours...)

A

Possessive adjectives have a single form for the masculine and feminine and singular and plural.

my...
your...
his...
her...
its...
our...
their...

B

Possessive adjectives are placed before the noun that they refer to. They are never preceded by an article, nor by an indefinite adjective or by other determiners.

my friend (not: ~~the my friend~~)
my friends (not: ~~the my friends~~)
one of my friends (not: ~~a my friends~~) (also possible: a friend of mine)
some of my friends (not: ~~some of my friends~~) (also possible: some friends of mine)
this friend of mine (not: ~~this my friend~~)

C

The possessive adjective of the third person singular refers to the possessor, not the thing owned by the possessor.

John's book → *his book* *Janet's book* → *her book* *the dog's kennel* → *its kennel*

Brian must be at home. That's his car.

Linda has cycled to work today. This is her bike.

So you've got a hamster. Do you clean its cage?

Watch out! Don't confuse:

- **it's** with **its**, which are pronounced the same way;
- **he's** with **his**, which are pronounced in a similar way.

'Here's your pen... but where's its cap?' 'It's here, under the chair.'

He's a cool guy and his friends are cool, too.

D

Possessive adjectives can be reinforced by the adjective **own**.

I've got my own room. (all to myself, that I don't share with others)

They've made their own fortune.

E

Possessive adjectives are usually used before personal objects (**my watch, my diary...**), parts of the body (**my head, my hands...**) and items of clothing (**my sweater, my jeans...**).

My head is aching. Did you take your umbrella?

F

Possessive pronouns are invariable. The pronoun that correspond to the possessive adjective **its** is very rarely used.

mine yours his hers ours theirs

Like adjectives, possessive pronouns are not preceded by an article, nor by an indefinite adjective or by other determiners.

'Whose bag is this?' 'It's mine.'

This isn't Lara's bag. Hers is black.

Note the difference between the use of the adjective (followed by a noun) and the pronoun (not followed by a noun).

Is that your racket? Is that racket yours?

Student's notes

EXERCISES

Possessive adjectives and pronouns UNIT 83

NAME: _____ student code _____ DATE: ____ / ____ / ____

LEVEL: _____ CEFR _____ TIME: _____ - _____

83.1 Complete the sentences with the correct possessive adjective. Indicate in which sentences the adjective can be reinforced with *own*.

- 1 Daddy! Jack won't lend me blue crayon!
- 2 Carol is a great actress, and tonight performance was marvellous.
- 3 The dog wants to go out. Can you pass me collar, please?
- 4 Why are you whispering? Is there a problem with voice?
- 5 My grandparents live in the French capital. flat is beautiful.
- 6 Michael has lost copy of the Polish national anthem.

83.2 Choose the correct alternative.

- 1 Take the rabbit out of **it's / its** cage – we need to clean it.
- 2 Where's Liam? **His / He's** mobile phone is ringing.
- 3 Listen! I can hear **there / their** car coming up the drive.
- 4 Simona is my Italian exchange student. I really envy **her / hers** stylish clothes.
- 5 **Its / It's** a very good time of the year to visit South Africa.
- 6 Here come the guests – **they're / their** all from Norway.

83.3 Complete the second sentence with the correct possessive pronoun.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Is this your laptop? | Is this laptop |
| 2 This is Maria's handwriting. | The handwriting is |
| 3 That's my schoolbag! | That schoolbag is |
| 4 This was his watch. | This watch was |
| 5 This is our classroom! | This classroom is |
| 6 Was it their idea? | Was the idea |

83.4 Complete the text with possessive adjectives or pronouns.

We visited some friends of ⁽¹⁾..... in Scotland last September. ⁽²⁾..... house in the Highlands was very small, but warm and comfortable. Andrew is a teacher in the village primary school. Most of ⁽³⁾..... students are the children of farmers – called crofters in this region. ⁽⁴⁾..... wife Fyfa doesn't go to work. ⁽⁵⁾..... main job is looking after ⁽⁶⁾..... children. There are three of them. All under five, and ⁽⁷⁾..... chief occupation is running around ⁽⁸⁾..... grandad's croft. ⁽⁹⁾..... grandma is a very good cook. ⁽¹⁰⁾..... are the best cakes in the village. She has won lots of cooking competitions so far.



A crofter's cottage

Teacher's observations