

What Are Possessive Pronouns?¹

Possessive pronouns show ownership. The term *possessive pronoun* covers possessive adjectives and absolute possessive pronouns.

The possessive pronouns are:

<u>Possessive Adjectives</u>	<u>Absolute Possessive Pronouns</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• my• your• his• her• its• our• their• whose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• mine• yours• his• hers• ours• theirs

Possessive Pronouns Replace Nouns

Possessive pronouns are used to indicate who (or what) owns something. Like all pronouns, possessive pronouns take the place of nouns in sentences.

Look at these examples:

- Take Sarah's car to the party.
- Take her car to the party. (In this example, the possessive adjective *her* replaces *Sarah*.)
- Take hers to the party. (In this example, the absolute possessive pronoun *hers* replaces *Sarah's car*.)

¹ http://www.grammar-monster.com/glossary/possessive_pronouns.htm

Examples of Possessive Pronouns

Below are examples of possessive pronouns. (There is a mix of possessive adjectives and absolute possessive pronouns.)

- Take **her** spoon and put it by **your** plate. ("her" and "your" are both possessive adjectives.)
- **His** opinion means little to **me**. ("His" = possessive adjective. "Me" = object pronoun.)
- Bob lost **his** flashlight, so I gave **him mine**. ("his" = possessive adjective, "him" = object pronoun, "mine" = absolute possessive pronoun)
- Only two of the books were **hers**. ("hers" = absolute possessive pronoun)
- This wasn't our car, but that one is ours. ("our" = possessive adjective, "ours" = absolute possessive pronoun)

What Are Possessive Adjectives?²

The possessive adjectives are:

- my
- your
- his
- her
- its
- our
- their
- whose

Possessive adjectives are used to indicate who (or what) owns something.

² http://www.grammar-monster.com/glossary/possessive_adjectives.htm

Examples of Possessive Adjectives

Here are some possessive adjectives in sentences:

- My head goes woozy when you climb your ladder.
- Take his spoon and put it by your plate.
- She got her looks from her father. He's a plastic surgeon. (Groucho Marx)
- It only wants its ball back.

Possessive Adjectives Are a Type of Pronoun

A pronoun is a word that replaces a noun. As possessive adjectives replace nouns, they are classified as pronouns. For this reason, they are also called possessive pronouns. The term *possessive pronoun* covers all the pronouns that demonstrate ownership. Look at these examples:

- This is **Sarah's** hat. (possessive noun)
- This is **her** hat. (In this example, the possessive adjective *her* replaces Sarah. That's why it's classified as a pronoun as well as an adjective.)
- This hat is **hers**. (absolute possessive pronoun)

(In this example, the word *hers* replaces *Sarah's hat*. Therefore, *hers* is a possessive pronoun too. As it's one that can stand alone, it is known as an absolute possessive pronoun.)

What Are Absolute Possessive Pronouns?³

The absolute possessive pronouns are *mine*, *yours*, *his*, *hers*, *its*, *ours*, and *theirs*. They are also known as *absolute possessives*. (This is because they stand alone and do not modify nouns.)

³ http://www.grammar-monster.com/glossary/absolute_possessives.htm

- mine
- yours
- his
- hers
- its
- ours
- yours
- theirs

Examples of Absolute Possessive Pronouns

Here are some examples of absolute possessive pronouns:

- **Theirs** are in the garage.
- They say female canaries can't sing. Well, **hers** can.
- We cherish our friends not for their ability to amuse us, but for **ours** to amuse them. (Evelyn Waugh, 1903-1966)

You do not use an apostrophe in the absolute possessive pronoun like you do with a possessive noun.
