

Possessive Nouns and Pronouns

Possessive Nouns

A *possessive noun* indicates that the person, place, or thing named is the owner or holder of the noun that follows. It answers the question *Whose . . . ?* A possessive noun can be used before a singular noun, a plural noun, or a noncount noun.

It can be a proper noun followed by -'s:

Emily's dress Bill's shoes Susan's ice cream

A possessive noun can be a common noun followed by -'s:

the teacher's desk the man's glasses a friend's mail

When two or more people own or have something, the plural noun is followed by an apostrophe if it ends in -s:

the teachers' party the students' books my friends' health

If the plural form does not end in -s, it is followed by -'s:

the men's cars the children's class the people's money

exercise

4-1

Write a phrase with a possessive noun for each item listed.

1. car/my sister _____
2. hats/the men _____

3. party/the children _____
4. office/the doctor _____
5. apartment/the girls _____
6. class/Miss Smith _____
7. school/Ben Lindsay _____
8. meeting/the ladies _____

exercise**4-2**

Look at some photographs of your family and friends. Write five things you see, and indicate to whom they belong.

EXAMPLES: That's Debbie's dog.
Those are my sister's shoes.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Possessive Pronouns

A *possessive pronoun* can be used in place of a possessive noun. A possessive pronoun can be used before a singular, plural, or noncount noun. These are the possessive pronouns:

my	it belongs to me
your	it belongs to you
his	it belongs to him
her	it belongs to her
its	it belongs to an animal, a group, or an organization
our	it belongs to me and one or more other people
your	it belongs to you and one or more other people
their	it belongs to one or more other people, animals, groups, or organizations

I drive **my** car to work.

Do you have **your** driver's license?

Bob gave me **his** telephone number.

Jane doesn't have **her** ticket.

Susan and I bought **our** supplies.

Do you and Sam have **your** books?

He gave me **his** telephone number.

She doesn't have **her** ticket.

We bought **our** supplies.

Do you have **your** books?

exercise

4-3

Look at your answers to Exercise 4-1. Change the possessive nouns to possessive pronouns.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

exercise

4-4

Look at your answers to Exercise 4-2. Change the possessive nouns to possessive pronouns.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____