

Possessive Adjectives in English

Possessive adjectives are used in English to refer to the ownership or possession of something. When we use them to talk about a person, it is more in the sense of a relationship with that person.

English possessive adjectives:

- **my**
- **your**
- **his / her / its** (not ~~it's~~!)
- **our**
- **your**
- **their**

Examples:

- My bike is very old.
- His girlfriend is very friendly.
- Our cat is black.
- Their homework is on the desk.

Like all adjectives in English, they are always placed directly in front of the noun to which they refer (possessive adjective + noun).

⚠ We **do not put an S** to the possessive adjective when the noun is plural!

- Our bikes are expensive.
- ~~Ours~~ bikes are expensive.

However, the verb used must be plural if the noun is plural, and singular if the verb is singular.

- My pen is blue. (sing)
- My pens are blue. (plur)
- Our child is smart. (sing)
- Our children are smart. (plur)

⚠ Its or It's ?

Be careful not to confuse it's and its

- Its = the possessive adjective of *it* for things or animals. Do not use an apostrophe.
- It's = the contraction of 'it is' or 'it has'

Ex: I'm taking my cat to the vet. Its leg is broken.

⚠ Their, They're or There ?

Be careful not to confuse the two! Same as for its / it's

- Their = the possessive adjective of They
- They're = the contraction of 'they are'
- There = adverb

⚠ Be careful not to confuse possessive pronouns with complementary personal pronouns or possessive adjectives!

- This is your (possessive adjective) book and this is mine (possessive pronoun).