



Unit 8:

Possession: Whose...?



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Possessive adjectives

What are possessive adjectives?

- ✓ Possessive adjectives - **my, your, his, her, its, our, your, their** - modify the noun following it in order to show possession.

1. I'll get my bag.
2. Is this your luggage?

- ✓ Possessive adjectives are often confused with possessive pronouns.

- **Your** bike is blue, (**your** is an **adjective** which modifies bike)
- **Mine** is yellow, (**mine** is a **pronoun** which functions as the subject of the verb)

	Example							
Subject Pronouns	I	you	he	she	it	we	you	they
Possessive adjectives	my	your	his	her	it	our	your	their

- Why didn't you clean your desk? (*your* modifies the noun desk)
- Mary doesn't like her office. (*her* modifies the noun office)
- The chameleon can change its color, (*its* modifies the noun color)



Possessive Pronouns



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What are possessive pronouns?

A possessive pronoun is a part of speech that attributes ownership to someone or something. Like any other pronoun, it substitutes a noun phrase and can prevent its repetition. For example, in the phrase, "These glasses are mine, not yours", the words "mine" and "yours" are possessive pronouns and stand for "my glasses" and "your glasses," respectively.

1. This is our house. It's **ours**.
2. This is my car. It's **mine**.
3. This is my brother's bike. It's **his**.

✓ The words "mine, yours, his, hers, its, ours, theirs" are possessive pronouns. They show who or what something belongs to.

	Example							
Subject Pronouns	I	you	he	she	it	we	you	they
Possessive adjectives	my	your	his	her	its	our	your	their
Adjectives pronouns	mine	yours	his	hers	its	ours	yours	theirs

The rules:

✓ A possessive pronoun differs from a possessive adjective.

- What color is **your** brother's car?
His car is black.
(**your** and **his** are possessive adjectives; **your** and **his** modify the noun car in both examples)
- What color is **yours**?
Mine is blue.
(**yours** and **mine** are possessive pronouns - **yours** functions as a subject complement in the first example; **mine** functions as a subject in the second example)
