

The Possessive Pronouns and Possessive Adjectives

What is a possessive pronoun?

The possessive pronouns are the words we use to show possession. Unlike possessive adjectives, they do not precede (come before) a noun, but replace it.

In English you can say:- 1. *This is **my** car* or 2. *This car is **mine*** . In the first sentence **my** is a possessive adjective it precedes (comes before) the Noun car . In the second sentence , **mine** is a possessive pronoun.

Therefore possessive pronouns are the words **e.g mine, yours, hers, his, ours or theirs**, which are used instead of a noun to show that one thing or person belongs to another, for example;

Ask Carol if this pen is hers.

For example this is a possessive adjective sentence:

Das ist mein Stift! (That's my pencil)

Whereas this is a possessive pronoun sentence:

Nein, er ist meinen! (No, its mine)

Basic Forms

Before you can learn how to use the possessive pronouns, you need to know what they are. Here is a quick look at the basic form of the German possessive pronouns:

Possessive Pronouns/ Adjectives;

PRONOUN	POSSESSIVE PRONOUN / ADJECTIVE	PRONOUNCIATION	ENGLISH TRANSLATION
ich	mein	main	mine / my
du	dein	dain	yours / your
er	sein	zain	his
sie	ihr	iya	hers / her
es	sein	zain	it's

wir	unser	unza	ours / our
ihr	euer	oy-ya	yours / your (plural)
sie	ihr	iya	theirs / their
Sie	Ihr	Iya	Yours / your (polite/ formal)

➤ **N.B;**

German possessive pronouns are the same words as the possessive adjectives mein , dein , sein , ihr , unser , euer , ihr , Ihr , with the same forms and endings.

ENDINGS OF THE POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS OR ADJECTIVES.

They have to take the same endings as their corresponding definite article (der, die and das) . These endings are dependent on the gender and number (singular / plural) of the noun, the pronoun is replacing i.e (**ich, du, er, wir, ihr**...etc) , and which case the noun belongs to.

Here are the possessive pronouns again, this time in the Nominative case , featuring their endings.

- **N.B :-** At this level of S.2 We shall only look at the Nominative case out of the four (4) cases of the German language i.e (1.Nominative/ Normal case, 2.Accusative case, 3.Dative case and 4.Genitive case).

Nominative/ der Nominative

(Normal) case ;

The nominative case is used to mark the subject of a sentence. In the nominative case possessive pronouns do not change their ending for masculine and neutral cases , but they carry an 'e' ending for the feminine and plural.

MASCULINE (der)	FEMININE (die)	NEUTER (das)	PLURAL (die)
mein	meine	mein	meine
dein	deine	dein	deine

sein	seine	sein	seine
ihr	ihre	ihr	ihre
sein	seine	sein	seine
unser	unsere	unser	unsere
euer	euere/ eure	eure	eure
ihr / Ihr	ihre/ Ihre	ihr/ Ihr	ihre

EXAMPLES;

- ★ Das ist *mein* (das)Auto. (ich)

(*That is my car.*)

- ★ Ist sie *deine* (die)Schwester? (du)

(*Is she your sister?*)

- ★ Das Mädchen hat eine schöne Katze. Wir mögen *seine* (die)Katze. (es)

(*The girl has a beautiful cat. We like its cat*) **N.B** we use "*seine*" (it's) instead of "*ihre*" (her) Katze because Mädchen is a neuter noun with a neuter article "*das*" that must be replaced by a neuter possessive adjective or pronoun "*sein*".

- ★ Da ist *sein* (der)Saft. (er) (*There is his juice.*)

- ★ Wer hat *ihre* (die)Tasche? (sie)

(*Who has her bag?*)

- ★ Ssendikadiwa Emily ist *unsere* (die) Freundin. (wir) (*Ssendikadiwa Emily is our friend.*)

- ★ Herr. Sserunkuuma ist *euer* (der) Deutschlehrer. (ihr)

(*Mr. Sserunkuuma is your German teacher.*)

- ★ Wo ist *ihr* (das) Klassenzimmer? (ihr)

(*Where is their classroom?*)

- ★ Entschuldigung Frau Ann, ich habe *Ihre* (die) Übung nicht. (Sie)

(*Excuse me Frau Ann, I don't have your exercise.*)

REVISION TABLE

Pronoun	Referring to the masculine gender	Referring to the feminine gender	Referring to the neuter gender	Referring to the plural form
My	Das ist mein Vater	..... meine Mutter	..... mein Kind	..... meine Eltern
your (du) informal	..... dein Bruder	....deine Schwester	..... dein Zimmer	..... deine Kleider
His	..... sein Onkel	..... seine Tante	..... sein Heft	..... seine Tanten
Her	..... ihr Freund	..... ihre Freundin	..... ihr Buch	..... ihre Freunde
Our	... unser Großvater	... unsere Oma	..... unser Lineal	..... Unsere Lineale
your (plural)	..... euer Lehrer	..... eure Lehrerin	... euer Mäppchen	... eure Mäppchen
Their	..... ihr Trainer	..... ihre Trainerin	..... ihr Papier	..... ihre Papiere
your (polite)	..... Ihr Füller	..... Ihre Tasche	..... Ihr Auto	..... Ihre Autos

Übung 1:

- Write full German sentences of all the examples in all gender cases given to you in the Revision table.

Zum Beispiel ;

- Das ist mein Vater.
- Das ist meine Mutter.
- Das ist mein Kind.
- Diese sind meine Eltern.
- Das ist dein Bruder.

N.B :- They should be 32 numbers in this exercise, attempt all.

II. Teach the possessive pronouns to more than 2 family members (young or old) you live with in these holidays.

Übung 2;

Please Open the link below and attentively watch the video about the German possessive pronouns, pronounce the words being taught and also attempt the short exercise given after the tutorial ;

https://www.google.com/url?q=https://m.youtube.com/watch%3Fv%3DJSnI8SAAxXA&sa=U&ved=2ahUKEwi25IGG7r_oAhUPx4UKHSaVCbQQtwlwD3oECAUQAQ&usg=AOvVaw06FFRV90HlevI-IQBQHGpM