Possessive Adjectives

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**Adjectifs possessifs**

French possessive adjectives are used in front of nouns to indicate to whom or to what those nouns belong. They are considerably more complicated than English possessive adjectives because French has several different forms depending on the gender and number of the possessed noun.

**Par exemple…**

| *Nous écoutons****ma****musique.* | We’re listening to **my** music. |
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| *Où est****mon****frère ?* | Where is **my** brother? |
| *J’ai perdu****mes****clés.* | I lost **my** keys. |

**Characteristics of French possessive adjectives**

1. Used in place of an [article](https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/articles/), not with one
2. Placed directly in front of a [noun](https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/nouns/) or an [adjective](https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/adjectives/) + noun
3. Must agree with the possessed noun in number and sometimes gender
4. Possessive adjective + noun can be replaced by a [possessive pronoun](https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/possessive-pronouns/)

There are a total of **15** different French possessive adjectives depending on the combination of possessor and the possession, which can be overwhelming. Here, they are divided up in different ways so that you can study them in whichever way makes more sense to you.

**Focus on possessor**

For beginners:

* [Singular possessors](https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/possessive-adjectives-singular-possessors/) (my | your | his/her/its)  
  [(*mon, ma, mes | ton, ta, tes | son, sa, ses*)](https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/possessive-adjectives-singular-possessors/)
* [Plural possessors](https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/possessive-adjectives-plural-possessors/) (our | your | their)  
  [(*notre, nos | votre, vos | leur, leurs*)](https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/possessive-adjectives-plural-possessors/)

**Focus on possession**

More advanced:

* [Singular possessions](https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/possessive-adjectives-singular-possessions/) (one item owned)  
  [(*mon, ma | ton, ta | son, sa | notre | votre | leur*)](https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/possessive-adjectives-singular-possessions/)
* [Plural possessions](https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/possessive-adjectives-plural-possessions/) (two or more items owned)  
  [(*mes | tes | ses | nos | vos | leurs*)](https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/possessive-adjectives-plural-possessions/)

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**French vs English**

French and English possessive adjectives are used with a few key differences.

**1)** In a list of nouns, the French possessive adjective must be used in front of each one.

**Par exemple…**

| ***mon****fils,****ma****fille et****mes****petits-enfants* |  | **my** son, daughter, and grandchildren |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***notre****maison et****nos****voitures* |  | **our** house and cars |
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 Note that ***notre maison*** is *singular* because there is only one house that we share, while***nos voitures*** is *plural* because we each have a car. For more detail, see [singular possessions](https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/possessive-adjectives-singular-possessions/).

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