

GRAMMAR

Expressing possession

LEVEL

Beginner (A1)

NUMBER

EN_A1_2073G


LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can express possessive relationships between two nouns using 'of'.
- I can indicate possession by adding 's' to nouns.



Whose coat is blue? The
woman's coat is blue.
Her hat is also blue but
the colour **of** her
trousers is white.



Possession

- When talking about things that **belong** to people, we add an **apostrophe s** to the **name** of the **owner** and put the object directly after to indicate possession.
- If the owner is **plural**, or the name ends with an **s**, simply **add an apostrophe** at the end of the name.

Possessive s

The coat of the doctor

The doctor's coat

The hair of Mary

Mary's hair

The shoes of my brother

My brother's shoes

The shop of Tim

Tim's shop

The football of James

James' football



In spoken English, we usually add the **'s** after a name ending in **s** (e.g. **James's** football)



Possession

- We can also use pronouns or **possessive adjectives** to say who something belongs to.
- Be careful with the spelling of the word **its**. It is not the same as the word **it's**. **It's** is a common **contraction** of the words **it is**, and has nothing to do with possession.

Possessive adjective

I am wearing a white shirt.

My shirt is white.

You are wearing a brown shirt.

Your shirt is brown.

He is wearing a shirt.

His shirt is blue.

The colour of the **shirt** is red.

Its colour is red.

We are wearing white shirts.

Our shirts are white.



Possession

- We often use **of** to describe **possession** and **qualities** of **objects** and **abstract nouns**.

of

The building is big.

The size **of** the building is big.

Her shirt is blue.

The colour **of** her shirt is blue.



Transform the sentences

Rewrite the sentences with *That is* and a **possessive adjective**.

1 I have a dog.



That is my dog.

2 You have a wedding dress!



3 He has a suit!



4 They are drinking tea!



5 We have a black cat.



6 She has a red car.





Fill in the gaps

Practise using different ways to talk about possession.

1 The woman is wearing a red dress. The _____ dress is red.

2 They love that café. It's _____ favourite café.

3 The man is wearing a dark suit. _____ suit is dark.

4 The girl has a nice little dog. The _____ little dog is nice.

5 My father gives good advice. My _____ advice is good.



Transform the sentences

Rewrite the sentences with a **possessive adjective**.

1 The man's suit is grey.



His suit is grey.

2 The woman's arm is sore.



3 The colour of the book is blue.



4 The streets of the city are clean.



5 That girl's hair is red.



6 The dog's paws are dirty.





Rewrite the sentences

Rewrite the sentences using a possessive adjective.



Mary's lamb is little.

Jack's house is in the
countryside.

Kevin's son is growing up.

Pam and Kath's toys are
in the garden.



Fill in the gaps



Jasper

The colour of the _____ shirt is red.

Yes, _____ shirt is red.



Eva



Jasper

The _____ suit is orange.

Wow, you're right. It really is orange! Do you like _____ colour?



Eva

man's

its

woman's

his



Fill in the gaps



Jasper

Not really. I think _____ a bit ugly.

But have you seen _____ shoes?



Eva



Jasper

Oh yes, her shoes _____ beautiful!

are

it's

her



Whose

There is another **wh**- word: **whose**. It is used to **ask** who something belongs to.

who

Who is wearing a white shirt?

Who has a little lamb?

whose

Whose shirt is white?

Whose little lamb is that?



Whose with *be* and *do* questions

We can use **whose** with **be** questions and **do** questions.

be questions

Whose shirt **is** white?

Whose music **is** that?

do questions

Whose shirt **do** you like?

Whose music **do** you prefer?



Answer the questions

1 Whose coat is red?

2 Whose coat is yellow?

3 Whose trousers are black?



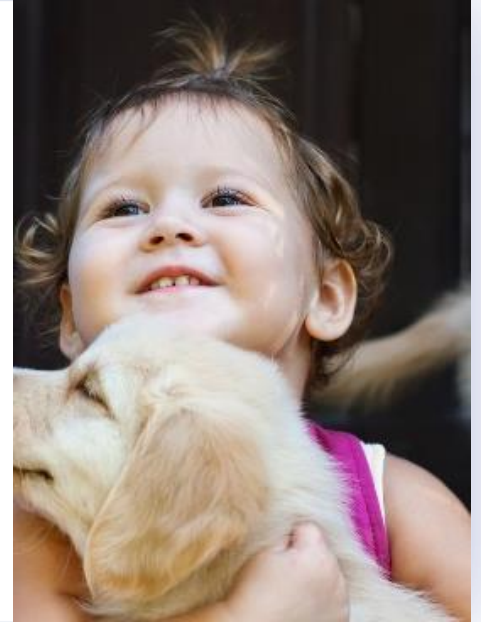


Reading

Read the text then answer the questions.

Hi! My name is Louise. I'm 4 years old and I love my dog. He is a Labrador. I love to give him hugs. His name is Goldie. His coat is yellow. Or maybe it's golden!

I have a sister who is 6 years old. Her name is Anna. She has a small cat named Nala. Nala has four white feet. She is cute but not as cute as Goldie!



Who has four white feet?

Whose sister is called Louise?

Whose dog is Goldie?

Who has golden fur?

Whose cat is named Nala?



Fill in the gaps

1 _____ is coming to the party?

2 _____ cat is that in the garden?

3 _____ opinion do you think is more important?

4 He can never make up _____ mind.

5 _____ father worries a lot about her.





Your possessions

What is your favourite possession?



Do you have many possessions?



End of the lesson

Idiom

(my) own

Meaning: belonging only to me

Example: *I live with four flat mates, but I have **my own** room.*



Additional practice



Complete the table with possessive adjectives

I	my
you	_____
he	_____
she	_____
it	_____
we	_____
they	_____





Fill in the blanks



1. The colour _____ the house is yellow.
2. The _____ lead is red and it wears it when we go for a walk.
3. _____ husband goes to work at 8 am.
4. _____ children love their new school.



My

dog's

Our

of



What are their possessions?

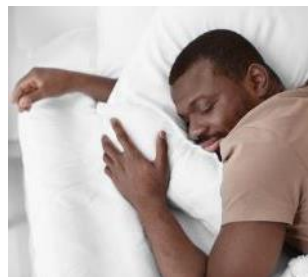
Talk about the people in the pictures and what possessions you can see.

- walk
- dog
- sleep
- bed

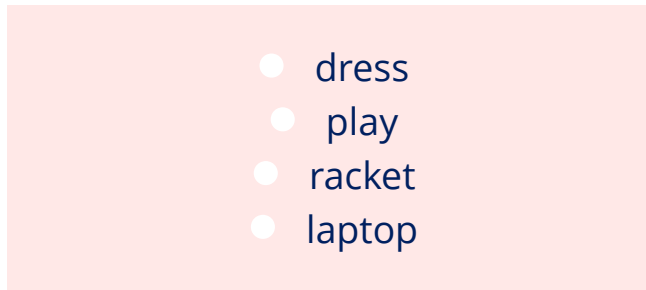
1



2



3



4



5



He is playing his guitar.

They are sitting on their blanket.



Describe one of your possessions

Can your classmates guess what it is?



It's brown and I use it every day.

I put my books in it.



- | | |
|----------|--------|
| • brown | • my |
| • green | • your |
| • yellow | • its |
| • blue | • our |



Answer key



P.7: 2) That is your wedding dress. 3) That is his suit. 4) That is their tea. 5) That is our black cat. 6) That is her red car.

P.8: 1) woman's, 2) their, 3) His, 4) girl's, 5) father's

P.9: 2) Her arm is sore. 3) Its colour is blue. 4) Its streets are clean. 5) Her hair is red. 6) Its paws are dirty.

P.10: 1) Her lamb is little. 2) His house is in the countryside. 3) His son is growing up. 4) Their toys are in the garden.

P.11/12: man's, his, woman's, its, it's, her, are

P.15: 1. Her coat 2. His coat 3. Their trousers

P.16: Nala has four white feet. Anna's sister is called Louise. Louise's dog is called Goldie. Goldie has golden fur. Anna's cat is called Nala.

P.17: 1) Who, 2) Whose, 3) Whose, 4) his, 5) Her



Answer key



P.22: I, my, you, your, he, his, she, her, it, its, we, our, they, their

P.23: 1) of, 2) dog's, 3) My, 4) Our

P.24: Suggestions: He is walking his dog. He is sleeping in his bed. She is wearing her dress. He is playing with his racket. He is using his laptop.



Summary

Possession:

- When talking about things that **belong** to people we add an **apostrophe + s** to the **name** of the **owner** and put the object directly after to indicate possession, e.g. *Mark's dog*.
- If the owner is **plural**, or the name ends with an **s**, simply **add an apostrophe** at the end of the name, e.g. *Achilles' heel*

Possession:

- We can also use pronouns or **possessive adjectives** to say who something belongs to, e.g. *my dog*
- We often use **of** to describe **possession** and **qualities** of **objects** and **abstract nouns**, e.g. *The colour of her shirt is blue.*

Whose:

- *Whose* is used to **ask** who something belongs to, e.g. *Whose bag is this?*
- We can use **whose** with **be** questions and **do** questions, e.g. *Whose shirt is white? – Whose shirt do you like?*



Vocabulary

possession

to belong

owner

apostrophe

abstract noun

whose

