# figs-possession

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| **NO** | **ENGLISH** | **TRANSLATION** |
| 1 | Possession |  |

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| **NO** | **ENGLISH** | **TRANSLATION** |
| 1 | What is possession and how can I translate phrases that show it? |  |

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| **NO** | **ENGLISH** | **TRANSLATION** |
| 1 | ### Description |  |
| 2 |  |  |
| 3 | In English, the grammatical form that commonly indicates possession is also used to indicate a variety of relationships between people and objects or people and other people. In English, that grammatical relationship is shown by using the word “\*\*of\*\*,” by using \*\*an apostrophe and the letter “s”\*\*, or by using a \*\*possessive pronoun\*\*. The following examples are different ways to indicate that my grandfather owns a house. |  |
| 4 |  |  |
| 5 | \* the house \*\*of\*\* my grandfather |  |
| 6 | \* my grandfather\*\*’s\*\* house |  |
| 7 | \* \*\*his\*\* house |  |
| 8 |  |  |
| 9 | Possession is used in Hebrew, Greek, and English for a variety of situations. Here are a few common situations that it is used for. |  |
| 10 |  |  |
| 11 | \* Ownership — Someone owns something. |  |
| 12 | \* My clothes — The clothes that I own |  |
| 13 | \* Social Relationship — Someone has some kind of social relationship with another. |  |
| 14 | \* my mother — the woman who gave birth to me, or the woman who cared for me |  |
| 15 | \* my teacher — the person who teaches me |  |
| 16 | \* Association — A particular thing is associated with a particular person, place, or thing. |  |
| 17 | \* David’s sickness — the sickness that David is experiencing |  |
| 18 | \* the fear of the Lord — the fear that is appropriate for a human being to have when relating to the Lord |  |
| 19 | \* Contents — Something has something in it. |  |
| 20 | \* a bag of clothes — a bag that has clothes in it, or a bag that is full of clothes |  |
| 21 | \* Part and whole: One thing is part of another. |  |
| 22 | \* my head — the head that is part of my body |  |
| 23 | \* the roof of a house — the roof that is part of a house |  |
| 24 |  |  |
| 25 | In some languages there is a special form of possession, termed \*\*inalienable possession.\*\* This form of possession is used for things that cannot be removed from you, as opposed to things you could lose. In the examples above, \*my head\* and \*my mother\* are examples of inalienable possession (at least in some languages), while \*my clothes\* or \*my teacher\* would be alienably possessed. What may be considered alienable vs. inalienable may differ by language. |  |
| 26 |  |  |
| 27 | #### Reasons This Is a Translation Issue |  |
| 28 |  |  |
| 29 | \* You (the translator) need to understand the relationship between two ideas represented by the two nouns when one is in the grammatical relationship of possessing the other. |  |
| 30 | \* Some languages do not use grammatical possession for all of the situations that your source text Bible might use it for. |  |
| 31 |  |  |
| 32 | ### Examples From the Bible |  |
| 33 |  |  |
| 34 | \*\*Ownership\*\* — In the example below, the son owned the money. |  |
| 35 |  |  |
| 36 | > The younger son … wasted his wealth by living recklessly. (Luke 15:13b) |  |
| 37 |  |  |
| 38 | \*\*Social Relationship\*\* — In the example below, the disciples were people who learned from John. |  |
| 39 |  |  |
| 40 | > Then \*\*the disciples of John\*\* came to him. (Matthew 9:14a ULT) |  |
| 41 |  |  |
| 42 | \*\*Association\*\* — In the example below, the gospel is the message associated with Paul because he preaches it. |  |
| 43 |  |  |
| 44 | > Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, from the seed of David, according to \*\*my gospel\*\*, (2 Timothy 2:8 ULT) |  |
| 45 |  |  |
| 46 | \*\*Material\*\* — In the example below, the material used for making the crowns was gold. |  |
| 47 |  |  |
| 48 | > On their heads were something like \*\*crowns of gold.\*\* (Revelation 9:7b) |  |
| 49 |  |  |
| 50 | \*\*Contents\*\* — In the example below, the cup has water in it. |  |
| 51 |  |  |
| 52 | > For whoever gives you \*\*a cup of water\*\* to drink … will not lose his reward. (Mark 9:41 ULT) |  |
| 53 |  |  |
| 54 | \*\*Part of a whole\*\* — In the example below, the door was a part of the palace. |  |
| 55 |  |  |
| 56 | > But Uriah slept at \*\*the door of the king’s palace.\*\* (2 Samuel 11:9a ULT) |  |
| 57 |  |  |
| 58 | \*\*Part of a group\*\* — In the example below, “us” refers to the whole group and “each one” refers to the individual members. |  |
| 59 |  |  |
| 60 | > Now to \*\*each one of us\*\* grace has been given according to the measure of the gift of Christ. (Ephesians 4:7 ULT) |  |
| 61 |  |  |
| 62 | #### Events and Possession |  |
| 63 |  |  |
| 64 | Sometimes one or both of the nouns is an abstract noun that refers to an event or action. In the examples below, the abstract nouns are in \*\*bold\*\* print. These are just some of the relationships that are possible between two nouns when one of them refers to an event. |  |
| 65 |  |  |
| 66 | \*\*Subject\*\* — Sometimes the word after “of” tells who would do the action named by the first noun. In the example below, \*\*John baptized people\*\*. |  |
| 67 |  |  |
| 68 | > The \*\*baptism of John\*\*, was it from heaven or from men? Answer me. (Mark 11:30) |  |
| 69 |  |  |
| 70 | In the example below, \*\*Christ loves us\*\*. |  |
| 71 |  |  |
| 72 | > Who will separate us from the \*\*love of Christ\*\*? (Romans 8:35) |  |
| 73 |  |  |
| 74 | \*\*Object\*\* — Sometimes the word after “of” tells who or what something would happen to. In the example below, \*\*people love money\*\*. |  |
| 75 |  |  |
| 76 | > For the \*\*love of money\*\* is a root of all kinds of evil. (1 Timothy 6:10a ULT) |  |
| 77 |  |  |
| 78 | \*\*Instrument\*\* — Sometimes the word after “of” tells how something would happen. In the example below, God would \*\*punish people by sending enemies to attack them with swords\*\*. |  |
| 79 |  |  |
| 80 | > Then be afraid of the sword, because wrath brings \*\*the punishment of the sword\*\*. (Job 19:29a ULT) |  |
| 81 |  |  |
| 82 | \*\*Representation\*\* — In the example below, John was baptizing people who were repenting of their sins. They were being baptized to show that they were repenting. Their \*\*baptism represented their repentance\*\*. |  |
| 83 |  |  |
| 84 | > John came, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching \*\*a baptism of repentance\*\* for the forgiveness of sins. (Mark 1:4 ULT) |  |
| 85 |  |  |
| 86 | ### Strategies for learning what the relationship is between the two nouns |  |
| 87 |  |  |
| 88 | (1) Read the surrounding verses to see if they help you to understand the relationship between the two nouns.<br> |  |
| 89 | (2) Read the verse in the UST. Sometimes it shows the relationship clearly.<br> |  |
| 90 | (3) See what the notes say about it. |  |
| 91 |  |  |
| 92 | ### Translation Strategies |  |
| 93 |  |  |
| 94 | If possession would be a natural way to show a particular relationship between two nouns, consider using it. If it would be strange or hard to understand, consider these. |  |
| 95 |  |  |
| 96 | (1) Use an adjective to show that one noun describes the other.<br> |  |
| 97 | (2) Use a verb to show how the two are related.<br> |  |
| 98 | (3) If one of the nouns refers to an event, translate it as a verb. |  |
| 99 |  |  |
| 100 | ### Examples of Translation Strategies Applied |  |
| 101 |  |  |
| 102 | (1) Use an adjective to show that one noun describes the other. |  |
| 103 |  |  |
| 104 | > On their heads were something like \*\*crowns of gold.\*\* (Revelation 9:7b) |  |
| 105 | > |  |
| 106 | > > “On their heads were \*\*gold crowns\*\*” |  |
| 107 |  |  |
| 108 | (2) Use a verb to show how the two are related. |  |
| 109 |  |  |
| 110 | > Whoever gives you \*\*a cup of water\*\* to drink … will not lose his reward. (Mark 9:41 ULT) |  |
| 111 | > |  |
| 112 | > > Whoever gives you a \*\*cup that has water in it\*\* to drink … will not lose his reward. |  |
| 113 | > |  |
| 114 | > Wealth is worthless on \*\*the day of wrath.\*\* (Proverbs 11:4a ULT) |  |
| 115 | > |  |
| 116 | > > Wealth is worthless on \*\*the day when God shows his wrath\*\*. |  |
| 117 | > > or: |  |
| 118 | > > Wealth is worthless on the \*\*day when God punishes people because of his wrath\*\*. |  |
| 119 |  |  |
| 120 | (3) If one of the nouns refers to an event, translate it as a verb. (In the example below, there are two possession relationships, “punishment of Yahweh” and “your God.”) |  |
| 121 |  |  |
| 122 | > Notice that I am not speaking to your children, who have not known or seen \*\*the punishment of Yahweh your God.\*\* (Deuteronomy 11:2a ULT) |  |
| 123 | > |  |
| 124 | > > Notice that I am not speaking to your children who have not known or seen \*\*how Yahweh, the God whom you worship, punished the people of Egypt\*\*. |  |
| 125 | > |  |
| 126 | > You will only observe and see the \*\*punishment of the wicked\*\*. (Psalms 91:8 ULT) |  |
| 127 | > |  |
| 128 | > > You will only observe and see \*\*how Yahweh punishes the wicked\*\*. |  |
| 129 | > |  |
| 130 | > You will receive \*\*the gift of the Holy Spirit\*\*. (Acts 2:38b ULT) |  |
| 131 | > |  |
| 132 | > > You will receive the \*\*Holy Spirit, whom God will give to you\*\*. |  |
| 133 |  |  |