



Tikrit University/ College of Education for women

English Department

English for special sciences

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Book: Headway

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Possessives

## Possessives

Possessive determiners are determiners which express possession. Some traditional grammars of English refer to them as possessive adjectives, though they do not have the same syntactic distribution as bona fide adjectives.

Examples in English include possessive forms of the personal pronouns, namely: *my*, *your*, *his*, *her*, *its*, *our* and *their*, but excluding those forms such as *mine*, *yours*, *ours*, and *theirs* that are used as possessive pronouns but not as determiners.

Possessive determiners may also be taken to include possessive forms made from nouns, from other pronouns and from noun phrases, such as *John's*, *the girl's*, *somebody's*, *the king of Spain's*, when used to modify a following noun.

In many languages, possessive determiners are subject to agreement with the noun they modify, as in the French *mon*, *ma*, *mes*, respectively the masculine singular, feminine singular and plural forms corresponding to the English *my*.

In English, possessive words or phrases exist for nouns and most pronouns, as well as some noun phrases. These can play the roles of determiners (also called possessive adjectives when corresponding to a pronoun) or of nouns.

For nouns, noun phrases, and some pronouns, the possessive is generally formed with the suffix *-s*, but in some cases just with the addition of an apostrophe to an existing *s*.

This form is sometimes called the Saxon genitive, reflecting the suffix's derivation from Old English.[1] Personal pronouns, however, have irregular possessives, and most of them have different forms for possessive determiners and possessive pronouns, such as *my* and *mine* or *your* and *yours*.

Possessives are one of the means by which genitive constructions are formed in modern English, the other principal one being the use of the preposition of. It is sometimes stated that the possessives represent a grammatical case, called the genitive or possessive case, though some linguists do not accept this view, regarding the 's ending, variously, as a phrasal affix, an edge affix, or a clitic, rather than as a case ending.

Possessives are sometimes regarded as a grammatical case (the possessive case), although they are also sometimes considered to represent the genitive case, or are not assigned to any case, depending on which language is being considered.

On the other hand, some languages, such as the Cariban languages, can be said to have a possessed case, used to indicate the other party (the thing possessed) in a possession relationship.

A similar feature found in some languages is the possessive affix, usually a suffix, added to the (possessed) noun to indicate the possessor, as in the Finnish *taloni* ("my house"), where *talo* means "house" and the suffix *-ni* means "my".

The concepts of possessive forms and genitive forms are sometimes conflated, although they are not exactly the same.

The genitive form, which does not exist in modern English as a productive inflection outside of pronouns (see below), represents an of relationship, which may or may not be possessive.

In other words, the possessive is a subset of genitive. For example, the genitive construction "speed of the car" is equivalent to the possessive form "the car's speed". However, the genitive construction "pack of dogs" is not the same as the possessive form "dogs' pack" (though it is the same as "dog pack", which is not possessive).

Possessive nouns are used to indicate ownership.

Possessive nouns usually are formed by adding an apostrophe (') and s.

- John's book
- Kerry's car
- Grandma's mirror

When a noun is plural and ends in s, just add an apostrophe (').

- The kids' toys
- My parents' house
- The teachers' lounge

If two people own one thing, add the apostrophe and s to the second person only.

- John and Mary's new house
- David and Sue's wedding
- Tom and Doug's car

If two people own separate things, add the apostrophe and s for each person.

- Susan's and Beth's books
- Jean's and Dan's pants
- Ben's and Jim's offices
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## Quiz

Which of the following is not correct?

- 1)Dr. Hunts has a new computer.
- 2)Dr. Hunts's new computer is working well.
- 3)Dr. Hunts' computer is new

- pen, computer, bottle, spoon, desk, cup, television, chair, shoe, finger,

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