

POSSESSIVES

■ Adjectives

- MY
- YOUR
- HIS
- HER
- ITS
- OUR
- YOUR
- THEIR

■ Pronouns

- MINE
- YOURS
- HIS
- HERS
- ITS
- OURS
- YOURS
- THEIRS

Example:

I don't want to share a room. I want **my** own room.

This not **his** bedroom.
This is **ours**.

Exercise:

She is writing to _____ boyfriend.

This is not _____ brother.
This is _____.

GENITIVE CASE

- We normally use –'s for people or animals:
- Karen's eyes.
- The horse's tail.

We can use –'s without a noun after it:

- This isn't my book. It is my brother's.
- (=my brother's book)

We do not always use –'s for people:

- What the name of the man who lent us money?
- the man who lent us the money is too long to be followed by -'s

We can use –'s without a noun after it:

- This isn't my book. It is my brother's.

Note that we say:

a woman's hat = a hat for woman

a boy's name = a name for a boy

bird's egg = an egg laid by a bird

You can use either –'s or of... for an organization

- The government's decision
- The decision of the government

- The company's success
- The success of the company

- After a singular noun we use –'s
- My sister's room

- After a plural noun we put an apostrophe after the s
- My sisters' room
- The Carters' house

Note that you can use –'s
after more than one noun

- Jack and Jill's wedding
- Mr. And Mrs.'s Carter's house

- But if there are two possessors and the things they possess are different, use –'s in both nouns
- Lucy's and Cristines's husband

We use –'s after a proper names ending in s

- Charles's job
- Tom Atkins's car

- But if the name is classical or biblical, we just add the apostrophe:
- Jesus' disciples
- Socrates' ideas

You can also use –'s with time expressions:

- Do you still have yesterday's newspaper?
- Next week's meeting has been canceled.
- I have a week's vacation starting on Monday.

- We also use –'s in special expressions (idioms)
- For goodness' sake For conscience's sake
- Out of harm's way
- At one's wits's end
- the sun's rays

REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS

- Myself
- Yourself
- Himself
- Herself
- Itself
- Ourselves
- Yourselves
- Themselves

Study the difference between **-selves and each other:**

- Tom and Ann stood in front of the mirror and look at themselves.
- Ann looked at Tom; Tom looked at Ann.
- They looked to each other.
- You can use **one another** instead of **each other**:
- How long have you and Bill known one another?
(or known each other)

Complete the sentences with –selves or each other:

- If people work too hard, they can make _____ sick.
- I need you and you need me. We need _____.
- In the U.S. friends often give _____ presents at Christmas.
- Some people are very selfish. They think only of _____.