

Possessive Determiners

We use **possessive determiners** to show who owns or 'possesses' something. The possessive determiners are:

- my, your, his, her, its, our, your, their

Warning! These are determiners! Don't confuse them with possessive pronouns (= mine / yours / his / hers / its / ours / yours / theirs).

Like all determiners, possessive determiners come at the beginning of a noun phrase, so they come in front of any adjective or adjectives.

Possessive Determiner with Gender (Male, Female, Neuter)		
SINGULAR		
my	M/F	This is my book.
his	M	His name is John.
her	F	Her first name is Mary.
its	N	The dog ate its food.
PLURAL		
our	M/F	We love our new house.
their	M/F/N	They like their English trainer.
SINGULAR or PLURAL		
your	M/F	I like your hair. Your children are lovely.

Be careful with these three possessive determiners:

Possessive Determiner	Contraction (sounds the same)
your This is your book.	you're (= you are) Hurry up! You're late!
its The dog ate its food.	it's (= it is or it has) It's coming. (It is coming.) It's arrived. (It has arrived.)
their Which one is their house?	they're (= they are) They're waiting. (They are waiting.) Also there is / there are

Note that there is NO apostrophe (') in the possessive determiner 'its'. We use an apostrophe to write the contraction of 'it is' or 'it has'. For example:

it is raining → it's raining

it has finished → it's finished

I'm taking my dog to the vet. It's broken **its** leg.