**Possessive Pronouns and Possessive Adjectives**

As their names imply, both possessive adjectives and possessive pronouns show ownership. The independent possessive pronouns are mine, ours, yours, his, hers, its, and theirs. The possessive adjectives, also called possessive determiners, are my, our, your, his, her, its, and their. We break down each type and offer examples of their usage below.

**Independent possessive pronouns**

Possessive pronouns are a type of possessive noun. Also called absolute possessive pronouns, possessive pronouns simplify constructions that show possession of a noun by replacing it—in other words, independent possessive pronouns must stand alone and be used without a noun. To understand how possessive pronouns can make things simpler and clearer, first take a look at this example of a sentence that does not use a possessive pronoun:

**Example:** Israa’s dress was prettier than my dress

It sounds repetitive and feels a little unnecessary to state “dress” twice in this sentence. Rewriting with a possessive pronoun simplifies things:

**Example:** Israa’s dress was prettier than mine.

**Possessive pronoun examples:**

1/ My phone is dead. Pass me **yours.**

2/ Did you know that car is **mine**?

3/ The house on the corner is **theirs.**

As you can see, it is common to see independent possessive pronouns at the ends of clauses or phrases.

**Possessive adjectives**

Possessive adjectives also clarify who or what owns something. Unlike possessive pronouns—which replace nouns—possessive adjectives go before nouns to modify them.

Like independent possessive pronouns, possessive adjectives can help streamline sentences. To see what we mean, take a look at a sentence that does not have any possessive adjectives—and sounds a little clunky as a result:

Jannah takes pride in Jannah’s outfits.

It sounds odd to use Jannah’s name twice in this sentence. A possessive adjective modifying the noun outfits solves the problem:

We say: Jannah takes pride in **her** outfits.

Thus, possessive adjectives are quite handy and are used frequently in the English language.

**Possessive adjective examples**

**1/ My** plane is delayed.

**2/ Your** dinner is ready.

**3/** Could you bring **his** tea out to him?

**4/** Remember not to judge a book by **its** cover.

**5/** I would have knocked on **their** door, but I heard **their** baby crying.

**A common mistake: its vs. it’s**

A common mistake is putting an apostrophe in the possessive adjective its. It is easy to confuse its with the contraction of it is, it’s, which does have an apostrophe. Remember, though, possessive adjectives never use apostrophes.

**Incorrect:** The boat lost **it’s** mast in the storm.

**Correct:** The boat lost **its** mast in the storm.

**Incorrect:** Don’t judge a book by **it’s** cover.

**Correct:** Don’t judge a book by **its** cover.