

THAT'S MINE!

EXPRESSING POSSESSION IN ENGLISH

There are three ways to express possession in English:

Through the use of the preposition “of”

Through the use of an apostrophe -s

Through the use of possessive pronouns

In English, an apostrophe and an -s can be added to any noun or pronoun to express belonging.



The plant's leaves are lustrous.

Its leaves are lustrous.



There is, however, an exception to the usage of the apostrophe -s: the pronoun “it.” If you want to express possession for the pronoun “it” drop the apostrophe and keep the -s: “its”

(Do not use apostrophe -s when you are not referring to a person, animal, country, organization, or if the noun phrase is really long)

The preposition “of” is used to express belonging.

The leaves of the plant are lustrous.



Possessive pronouns are used to express belonging. Different pronouns are used depending on their function in a sentence.

POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1ST	my	our
2ND	your	your
3RD	his her its	their

In the case of the possessive pronouns, you have the “possessive pronouns” with function as adjectives and the “independent possessive pronouns” that can function on their own as a noun to express possession.

Her plant has lustrous leaves.



The plant with the lustrous leaves is hers.

INDEPENDENT POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1ST	mine	ours
2ND	yours	yours
3RD	his hers its	theirs