

## Possessive Adjectives & Pronouns -Fun Facts-

**Examples:** la mia camicia [(the) my shirt]  
 le tue borse [(the) your bags]  
 il suo libro [(the) his/her book]  
 il nostro amico [(the) our friend]  
 i vostri vicini [(the) your neighbors]  
 le loro famiglie [(the) their families]



**Possessive adjectives** indicate what belongs to whom.

In English this looks like *my / your / his / her / its / our / their + noun* [i.e., my car, your brother, his dog, her bag, its name, our school, their house].

**Possessive pronouns** take the place of the thing owned [and therefore you need to know from context the person/place/thing that is possessed] for it to work. In English this looks like *mine / yours / his / hers / ours / theirs* but **no noun** (since the word itself stands in for the noun, because that's what a pronoun does).

**Italian possessive adjectives & pronouns operate the same as in English** WITH ONE HUGE EXCEPTION: POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES & PRONOUNS **MUST** BE PRECEDED BY THE MATCHING DEFINITE ARTICLE ("the") whether masculine or feminine, singular or plural.

**Possessive Adjectives & Pronouns must and agree in gender (m. or f.) & number (singular or plural)** with the noun (person/place/thing) owned or possessed, NOT with the owner.

**Examples:** Bruno's shirt = Bruno is a guy (m.) who possesses a shirt (f.): la camicia di Bruno, his shirt = la sua camicia (not il suo

camicia, because 'camicia' is feminine, it doesn't matter that Bruno is a man; the possessive adjective agrees with the gender of the word it describes, in this case *camicia, f.*) Maria's shirt = la camicia di Maria, her shirt = la sua camicia (same as for Bruno)

**Formula:** Find the noun, and ask these questions: What's the gender (m./f.) and the quantity (sing./plur.)? Then, find it in the table below.

**Irregularity:** Singular family members don't need an article. Plural family members do.

**Example:** Mia sorella è bella. (one sister) **BUT**, Le mie sorelle sono belle. (plural, sisters)

Italian Possessive Adjectives and Pronouns					
Masculine		Feminine		Possessive Adjective	Possessive Pronoun
Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural		
il mio	i miei	la mia	le mie	my	mine
il tuo	i tuoi	la tua	le tue	your ( <i>fam.sing.</i> )	yours ( <i>fam.sing.</i> )
il suo	i suoi	la sua	le sue	his, her, its	his, hers, its
il Suo	i Suoi	la Sua	le Sue	your ( <i>form.sing.</i> )	yours ( <i>form.sing.</i> )
il nostro	i nostri	la nostra	le nostre	our	ours
il vostro	i vostri	la vostra	le vostre	your ( <i>fam.plural</i> )	yours ( <i>fam.plural</i> )
il loro	i loro	la loro	le loro	their	theirs

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