

3A.2 Possessive adjectives

Point de départ

In both English and French, possessive adjectives express ownership or possession.



BOÎTE À OUTILS

In **ESPACE CONTEXTES**, you learned a few possessive adjectives with family vocabulary: **mon grand-père, ma sœur, mes cousins.**

3A.2 Possessive adjectives**Possessive adjectives**masculine
singular**mon****ton****son****notre****votre****leur**feminine
singular**ma****ta****sa****notre****votre****leur**

plural

mes**tes****ses****nos****vos****leurs***my**your* (fam. and sing.)*his, her, its**our**your* (form. or pl.)*their*

3A.2 Possessive adjectives

*C'est ta sœur?
Ce sont tes parents?*



Voilà vos photos.



Possessive adjectives are always placed before the nouns they modify.

*C'est **ton** père?
Is that your father?*

*Non, c'est **mon** oncle.
No, that's my uncle.*

3A.2 Possessive adjectives

In French, unlike English, possessive adjectives agree in gender and number with the nouns they modify.

mon frère
my brother

ma sœur
my sister

mes grands-parents
my grandparents

Note that **notre**, **votre**, and **leur** agree in number only.

notre neveu
our nephew

notre famille
our family

nos enfants
our children

leur cousin
their cousin

leur cousine
their cousin

leurs cousins
their cousins

3A.2 Possessive adjectives

The masculine singular forms **mon**, **ton**, and **son** are used with feminine singular nouns that begin with a vowel sound.

mon amie
my friend

ton étudiante
your student

son histoire
his story

The choice of **son**, **sa**, and **ses** depends on the gender and number of the noun possessed, not the gender and number of the owner. Context usually makes the meaning clear.

son frère = *his/her brother*

sa sœur = *his/her sister*

ses parents = *his/her parents*

3A.2 Possessive adjectives**Possession with *de***

In English, you use 's to express relationships or ownership.
In French, use **de (d')** + [*the noun or proper name*]
instead.

C'est le petit ami **d'Élisabeth**.

That's Élisabeth's boyfriend.

C'est le petit ami **de ma sœur**.

That's my sister's boyfriend.

3A.2 Possessive adjectives**Possession with *de* (continued)**

When the preposition **de** is followed by the definite articles **le** and **les**, they contract to form **du** and **des**, respectively. There is no contraction when **de** is followed by **la** and **l'**.

de + le ► **du**

L'opinion **du** grand-père
est importante.
*The grandfather's opinion
is important.*

de + les ► **des**

La fille **des** voisins a
les cheveux châtons.
*The neighbors' daughter
has brown hair.*

3A.2 Possessive adjectives

Possession with *de* (continued)

On peut regarder des photos de ma tante?



Sophie, c'est la nièce de Valérie.



3A.2 Possessive adjectives**Essayez!**

Provide the appropriate form of each possessive adjective.

mon, ma, mes

1. mon livre
2. _____ librairie
3. _____ professeurs

ton, ta, tes

4. _____ ordinateurs
5. _____ télévision
6. _____ stylo

son, sa, ses

7. _____ table
8. _____ problèmes
9. _____ école

notre, nos

10. _____ cahier
11. _____ études
12. _____ bourse

votre, vos

13. _____ soirées
14. _____ resto U
15. _____ devoirs

leur, leurs

16. _____ résultat
17. _____ classe
18. _____ notes