



learning target

Aim of this section is to learn the possessive pronouns and their use in the four cases.

German	English
<p>Meine Freundin heißt Catherine Pacana. Kennst du seinen Namen? Ich schicke deiner Schwester eine Nachricht.</p>	<p>My girlfriend is called Catherine Pacana. Do you know his name? I send a message to your sister.</p>

rules

The meaning of the possessive pronouns

The meaning of the possessive pronouns can be explained with one little table:

person	numerus	gender
1 st person	singular	-
2 nd person	singular	-
3 rd person	singular	male
3 rd person	singular	female
3 rd person	singular	neuter
1 st person	plural	-
2 nd person	plural	-
3 rd person	plural	-
2 nd person (formal)	singular / plural	-

German	English
mein	my
dein	your
sein	his
ihr	her
sein	its
unser	our
euer	your
ihr	their
Ihr	your

The problem - endings

The real problem are once again the endings.

They depend on the **gender**, **numerus** and **case** of the noun.

To choose the correct ending you need exactly the same rules which we already used in *Adjektivendungen*.

example 1:

Mein Freund heißt Tom. (My boyfriend is called Tom.)

- gender of "Freund": male
- numerus of "Freund": singular
- case of "Freund" here: nominative ("Freund" is the subject of the sentence => nominative)

If you look for singular, male, nominative you'll find no ending. So it must be "Mein Freund".



example 2:

Ich besuche **meinen** Freund. (I visit my boyfriend.)

- gender of "Freund": male
- numerus of "Freund": singular
- case of "Freund" here: accusative ("Ich" is the subject. "Freund" is the direct object of the sentence => accusative)

If you look for singular, male, accusative you'll find the ending "en". So it must be "**meinen** Freund".

example 3:

Ich schicke **meinem** Freund einen Brief. (I send a letter to my boyfriend.)

- gender of "Freund": male
- numerus of "Freund": singular
- case of "Freund" here: dative ("Ich" is the subject. "Brief" is the direct subject of the sentence. "Freund" is the indirect object of the sentence => dative)

If you look for singular, male, dative you'll find the ending "em". So it must be "**meinem** Freund".



tables

"declension" of the possessive pronoun: **mein** (=my)

case	singular			plural
	male	female	neuter	-
nominative	mein Mann	meine Frau	mein Kind	meine Kinder
genitive	meines Mannes	meiner Frau	meines Kindes	meiner Kinder
dative	meinem Mann	meiner Frau	meinem Kind	meinen Kindern
accusative	meinen Mann	meine Frau	mein Kind	meine Kinder

"declension" of the possessive pronoun: **dein** (=your, singular)

case	singular			plural
	male	female	neuter	-
nominative	dein Mann	deine Frau	dein Kind	deine Kinder
genitive	deines Mannes	deiner Frau	deines Kindes	deiner Kinder
dative	deinem Mann	deiner Frau	deinem Kind	deinen Kindern
accusative	deinen Mann	deine Frau	dein Kind	deine Kinder

"declension" of the possessive pronoun: **sein** (=his, its)

case	singular			plural
	male	female	neuter	-
nominative	sein Mann	seine Frau	sein Kind	seine Kinder
genitive	seines Mannes	seiner Frau	seines Kindes	seiner Kinder
dative	seinem Mann	seiner Frau	seinem Kind	seinen Kindern
accusative	seinen Mann	seine Frau	sein Kind	seine Kinder

"declension" of the possessive pronoun: **ihr** (=her, their)

case	singular			plural
	male	female	neuter	-
nominative	ihr Mann	ihre Frau	ihr Kind	ihre Kinder
genitive	ihreres Mannes	ihrer Frau	ihreres Kindes	ihrer Kinder
dative	ihrer Mann	ihrer Frau	ihrer Kind	ihrer Kindern
accusative	ihren Mann	ihre Frau	ihr Kind	ihre Kinder



"declension" of the possessive pronoun: **unser** (=our)

case	singular			plural
	male	female	neuter	-
nominative	unser <u>V</u> ater	unser <u>e</u> Mutter	unser Kind	unser <u>e</u> Kinder
genitive	unser <u>es</u> Vater <u>s</u>	unser <u>er</u> Mutter	unser <u>es</u> Kind <u>es</u>	unser <u>er</u> Kinder
dative	unser <u>em</u> Vater	unser <u>er</u> Mutter	unser <u>em</u> Kind	unser <u>en</u> Kind <u>ern</u>
accusative	unser <u>en</u> Vater	unser <u>e</u> Mutter	unser Kind	unser <u>e</u> Kinder

"declension" of the possessive pronoun: **euer** (=your, plural)

case	singular			plural
	male	female	neuter	-
nominative	euer Vater	euer <u>e</u> Mutter*	euer Kind	euer <u>e</u> Kinder*
genitive	euer <u>es</u> Vater <u>s</u> *	euer <u>er</u> Mutter*	euer <u>es</u> Kind <u>es</u> *	euer <u>er</u> Kinder*
dative	euer <u>em</u> Vater*	euer <u>er</u> Mutter*	euer <u>em</u> Kind*	euer <u>en</u> Kind <u>ern</u> *
accusative	euer <u>en</u> Vater*	euer <u>e</u> Mutter*	euer Kind	euer <u>e</u> Kinder*

As you can see all possessive pronouns have got the same endings. So, you just have to learn one and you know all. If you compare it with the "declension" of indefinite articles you will see they also have the same endings. That makes it much easier. Of course there is an exception. The possessive pronoun "euer" (=your, plural) drops the "e" in the middle (marked with a *) if it has got an ending.