

# My, his, her, their: possessives, plurals and demonstratives

This is my bag. Those are their books. A possessive tells us who something belongs to; a demonstrative points to it. Check both ownership and singular or plural before choosing the words.

Anglais 1AC - Supplementary practice - Updated 27/10/2026

## Learning goals

- Identify the owner before choosing a possessive
- Point to one object or several
- Change the whole noun phrase into the plural

## 1. How do I choose my, his, her, this and these?

Choose a possessive from the owner: Sara's book is her book; Adam's book is his book. Choose this or that for one thing and these or those for several. This/these point to nearer things; that/those point to farther things.



Choose a possessive according to the owner.

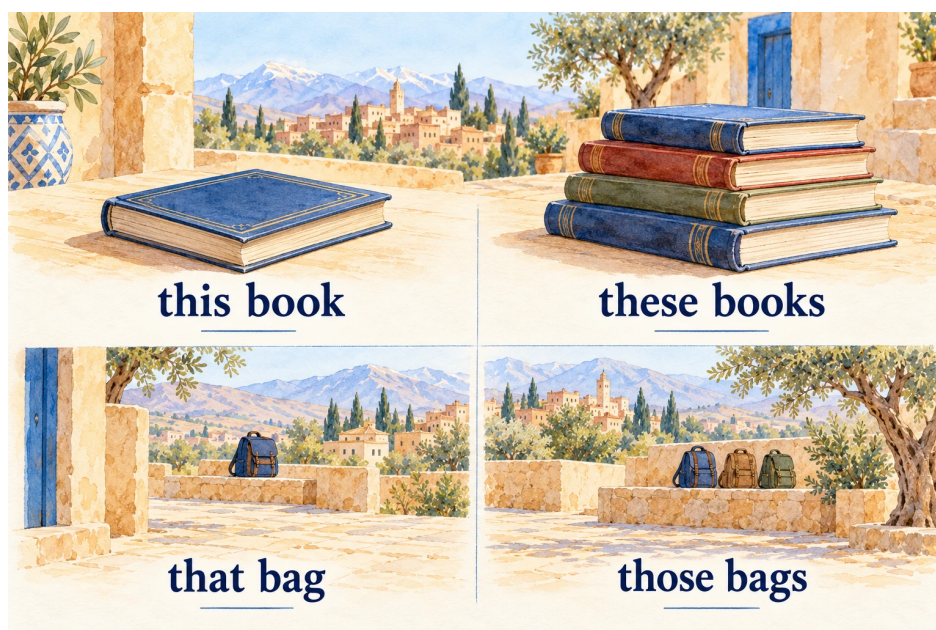
## 2. Identify the owner before choosing a possessive

Use my for I, your for you, his for he, her for she, its for it, our for we and their for they. The owner chooses the possessive: Sara's father is her father. Possessives stay the same with singular and plural nouns: my book, my books. Use this for one near object and these for several near objects. Use that for one far object and those for several far objects. Pair this/that with is and these/those with are. Most plurals add s; box becomes boxes and dictionary becomes dictionaries. Child becomes children.

### 3. Point to one object or several

| Position and number | Sentence               | Owner                 |
|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Near, one           | This is my pencil.     | my = the speaker's    |
| Near, several       | These are her pencils. | her = Sara's          |
| Far, one            | That is our classroom. | our = the group's     |
| Far, several        | Those are their bags.  | their = the students' |

### 4. Read a classroom ownership scene



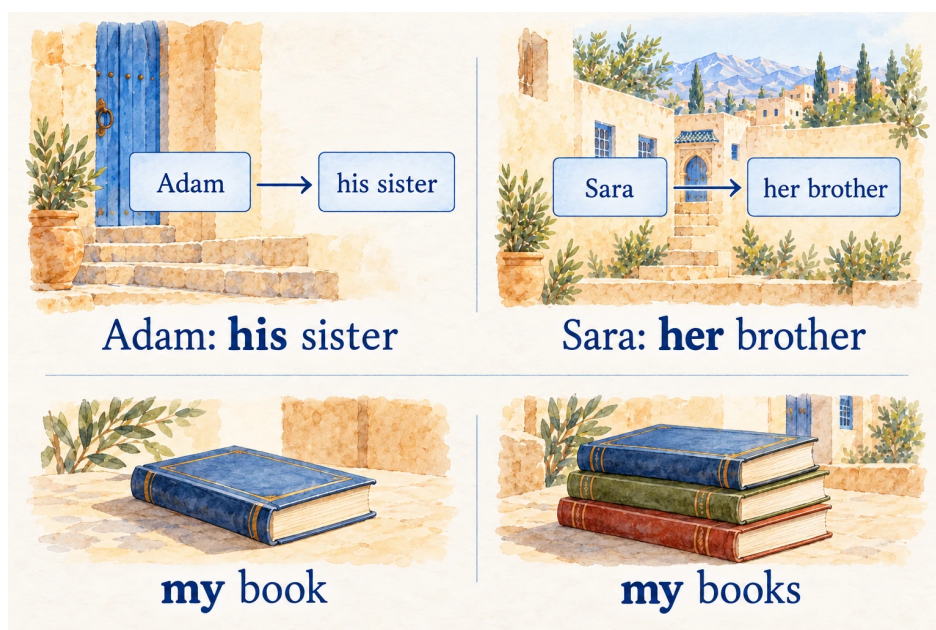
This/that are singular; these/those are plural.

#### Read and explain this example

This is our classroom. These are my notebooks. That is Hamza's bag; his bag is blue. Those are Sara's pencils. Her pencils are red. Their teacher keeps dictionaries on the shelf.

### 5. Change the whole noun phrase into the plural

There are two separate decisions in These are her pencils. These tells us that the pencils are near and plural. Her tells us who owns them. Making pencil plural does not change her. If you move the pencils farther away, These becomes Those, but the owner may stay the same. Treating these decisions separately helps you avoid changing every word when only one detail changes.



Use is with one object and are with several.

### Check this

Its has no apostrophe when it means belonging to it. It's means it is or it has. Do not choose his because the object is a boy: choose it according to the owner.

### Put the idea into practice

1. Name the owner and choose the matching possessive.
2. Check whether the object is singular or plural and near or far.
3. Read demonstrative, be and noun together: these + are + books.

#### Remember

- Choose a possessive according to the owner.
- This/that are singular; these/those are plural.
- Use is with one object and are with several.

## Practice - Try before checking

Answer in your notebook. Use evidence from the examples and check your sentences.

### Exercise 1. Name the owner

Sara has a brother: ... brother. Adam has a sister: ... sister.

### Exercise 2. Make plural

Change This is a box and That is a dictionary into plurals.

### Exercise 3. Describe the classroom

Write one sentence about your objects and one about a friend's objects.

### Exercise 4. Keep the same owner

Sara owns one nearby box. Write a sentence, then change it to several far boxes.

## Explained answers

### Exercise 1. Name the owner

Her brother; his sister. Sara and Adam determine the possessive.

### Exercise 2. Make plural

These are boxes. Those are dictionaries. Change demonstrative, be and noun.

### Exercise 3. Describe the classroom

Example: These are my books. That is her ruler. Check the distance, number and owner in your own scene.

### Exercise 4. Keep the same owner

This is her box. Those are her boxes. Her stays the same because Sara is still the owner; the demonstrative, be and noun change.

## Frequently asked questions

### How do I choose my, his, her, this and these?

Choose a possessive from the owner: Sara's book is her book; Adam's book is his book. Choose this or that for one thing and these or those for several. This/these point to nearer things; that/those point to farther things.

### Why is Sara's father her father, although he is a man?

Her refers to Sara, the person whose relationship is being described. The gender of father does not choose the possessive.

### Do possessive adjectives take a plural s?

No. Say their book and their books. Only the noun changes here.



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