

Grammar: Possessive adjectives

Overview

A possessive adjective is a word such as 'my, you, his, their' which denotes possession.

Latin has a range of possible adjectives.

First person singular

First person plural

Second person singular

Second person plural

Third person

The first person singular

The first person singular possessive adjective means 'my'. It declines like a 1st and 2nd declension adjective and must agree with its noun in number, gender and case.

my money = *pecunia mea* I hide my money = *pecuniam meam celo*

	Singular			Plural		
	m	f	n	m	f	n
Nominative	meus	mea	meum	mei	meae	mea
Accusative	meum	meam	meum	meos	meos	mea
Genitive	mei	meae	mei	meorum	meorum	meorum
Dative	meo	meae	meo	meis	meis	meis
Ablative	meo	meā	meo	meis	meis	meis

The first person plural

The first person plural possessive adjective means 'our'. It declines like a 1st and 2nd declension adjective and must agree with its noun in number, gender and case.

	Singular			Plural		
	m	f	n	m	f	n
Nominative	noster	nostra	nostrum	nostri	nostrae	nostra
Accusative	nostrum	nostram	nostrum	nostros	nostros	nostra
Genitive	nostri	nostrae	nostri	nostrorum	nostrarum	nostrorum
Dative	nostro	nostrae	nostro	nostris	nostris	nostris
Ablative	nostro	nostrā	nostro	nostris	nostris	nostris

The second person singular

The second person singular possessive adjective means 'your'. It declines like a 1st and 2nd declension adjective and must agree with its noun in number, gender and case.

	Singular			Plural		
	m	f	n	m	f	n
Nominative	tuus	tua	tuum	tui	tuae	tua
Accusative	tuum	tuam	tuum	tuos	tuos	tua
Genitive	tui	tuae	tui	tuorum	tuarum	tuorum
Dative	tuo	tuae	tuo	tuis	tuis	tuis
Ablative	tuo	tuā	tuo	tuis	tuis	tuis

The second person plural

The second person plural possessive adjective means 'your'. It declines like a 1st and 2nd declension adjective and must agree with its noun in number, gender and case.

	Singular			Plural		
	m	f	n	m	f	n
Nominative	vester	vestra	vestrum	vestri	vestrae	vestra
Accusative	vestrum	vestram	vestrum	vestros	vestros	vestra
Genitive	vestri	vestrae	vestri	vestrorum	vestrarum	vestrorum
Dative	vestro	vestrae	vestro	vestris	vestris	vestris
Ablative	vestro	vestrā	vestro	vestris	vestris	vestris

The third person

For a normal third person possessive adjective, meaning 'his, her, its, their', Latin uses the genitive of the pronoun *is, ea, id*. So,

his money = *pecunia eius* their money = *pecunia eorum*

There is a reflexive third person possessive adjective, meaning 'his own' etc. This declines like a 1st and 2nd declension adjective.

	Singular			Plural		
	m	f	n	m	f	n
Nominative	suus	sua	suum	sui	suae	sua
Accusative	suum	suam	suum	suos	suos	sua
Genitive	sui	suae	sui	suorum	suarum	suorum
Dative	suo	suae	suo	suis	suis	suis
Ablative	suo	suā	suo	suis	suis	suis

Examples drawn from the exercises

Identify the possessive adjective in each question, and specify with what it agrees.

The number after each question indicates the exercise from which it has been drawn, so that you can look at the example in context.

1. veniat regnum tuum ... *Exercise 2*
2. Panem nostrum cotidianum danobis hodie ... *Exercise 2*
3. et dimitte nobis debita nostra sicut et nos dimittimus debitoribus nostris. *Exercise 2*
4. Quis est auriga eius? *Exercise 3*
5. anima mea dulcedine requiescit. *Exercise 5*

Examples drawn from Cicero

1. non alienationi nostrae fuit illius haec praepropera prensatio. *Ad Atticum 1.I*
2. ita quiddam spero nobis profici, cum hoc percrebrescit, plurimos nostros amicos inveniri. *Ad Atticum 1.I*
3. ego de meis ad te rationibus scripsi antea diligenter. *Ad Atticum 1.II*

4. aviam tuam scito desiderio tui mortuam esse ... *Ad Atticum 1.III*
5. Lentulus naves suas pollicetur. *Ad Atticum 1.IX*