



**Learn English Through Stories**

**T Series**

**Advanced Grammar**

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## **Banta's Party in Coventry by K S Sandhu**

Banta lives in a modest flat in Coventry. He is organising a special party for his closest friends. He wants everything to be perfect.

First, he cleans his small living room thoroughly. The flat's windows are covered in dust, so he polishes them until they sparkle. Then he checks his friends' favourite dishes on a handwritten list.

His best friend Amira adores spicy chicken curry. Her husband Raj prefers milder vegetable dishes. Their children always demand sweet desserts with extra cream. Banta also invites his cheerful cousin Singh and Singh's witty wife Leela, who often share fascinating travel stories.

Banta walks to the large supermarket nearby. He buys fresh ginger, fragrant spices, basmati rice, colourful vegetables, and a bouquet of elegant lilies for the table. At the checkout, he meets his friendly neighbour, Mrs Posh.

"I'm hosting a party tonight," Banta explains proudly. "It's for my friends' enjoyment."

Mrs Posh smiles warmly. "That sounds lovely. My daughter's birthday is soon. Perhaps I'll copy some of your ideas."

Banta chuckles. "Feel free to borrow any of my mother's recipes."

Back home, Banta starts cooking. He follows his mother's traditional masala recipe. The rich aroma spreads through the entire building. His flatmate Karim arrives and exclaims, "The neighbours will be jealous of this delicious fragrance!"

In the afternoon, Banta decorates carefully. He hangs colourful fairy lights and arranges the chairs in a welcoming circle. On the table, he places his grandmother's antique silver plates. They look sophisticated beside the modern glasses.

As evening comes, the guests arrive. Amira and Raj bring their children's favourite gulab jamun. Singh and Leela carry a bottle of refreshing traditional wine. To everyone's surprise, Mrs Posh appears with a homemade chocolate cake. "Your cooking's aroma reached my kitchen," she laughs. "I couldn't resist joining!"

The room fills with laughter and conversation. They sit together, sharing food and stories. Banta feels proud seeing his friends' happy faces.

Amira tastes the curry and says, "This is much better than any restaurant's food."

Raj nods in agreement. "And the atmosphere here is warmer than a luxury hotel's dining room."

After the meal, Karim plays lively music. The children dance energetically while the adults remember their own youthful adventures. Banta watches quietly and thinks: "Life's true value isn't in expensive possessions, but in friends' laughter and family's love."

When the party ends, the guests thank Banta warmly. Singh says sincerely, "Your party's success comes from your generous heart."

Banta shakes his head modestly. "No, it's thanks to all your kind contributions."

As people leave, Mrs Posh whispers, "Next time, you must help with my daughter's celebration."

"Of course," Banta replies. "Friends' doors are always open."

He closes the door, looks at the empty plates and glowing memories, and feels deeply grateful for his simple, joyful life in Coventry.

## 2 Possessive 's

Form rules for possessive 's, e.g. *boy's/boys'*  
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### 1 Special rules with possessive 's

We can have two possessive 's forms together:  
*We're fed up with our **neighbour's tenant's** loud music.*  
If the possessive form consists of a compound noun (➤ Unit 70.1) or two or more nouns which form a single team or group, we add the 's to the last noun only:

*Are you coming to my **brother-in-law's** party?*  
(compound noun)

*I'm a great fan of **Lerner and Lowe's** musicals.*  
(They both wrote as a single team.)

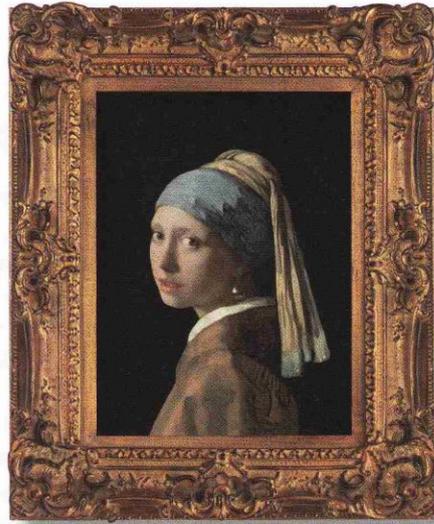
When the nouns do not form a single group we must use 's with both nouns:

***Schrodinger's and Heisenberg's** versions of quantum mechanics had seemed different.*  
(two versions of the theory)

If the possessive noun is part of a prepositional phrase, we usually put the 's at the end of the phrase:

✗ *The ~~woman's in the corner~~ baby began to cry.*

✓ *The **woman in the corner's** baby began to cry.*  
(= The baby belonging to the woman in the corner ...)



According to legend, Vermeer's 'Girl with a Pearl Earring' shows the artist's maid wearing a Turkish turban and a pearl earring of his wife's.

### 2 Double possessives

We can use a double possessive – noun + *of* + noun (with possessive 's) – to show that the first noun means 'one of several'. We usually use the indefinite article with this pattern:  
*I heard the story from **a friend of my brother's**.* (= one of my brother's friends)

We do not always include the possessive 's with the second noun:

*They got the information from **a friend of the owner**.*

! The double possessive is common with pronouns. We always use the possessive pronoun:

✗ *She's a friend of ~~us~~. She's a friend of ~~our~~.*

✓ *She's a friend of **ours**.* (= We have several friends. She is one of them.)

### 3 Specifying and classifying possessives

Specifying possessives show a relationship with something specific such as a person or place. They usually answer the question 'Whose ...?':

*Marion washes **the children's clothes** on Thursdays.* (= the clothes belonging to the children)

! An adjective in front of a specifying possessive only describes the noun immediately following it:

*Marion washed **the older children's clothes** in the machine.* (= the children are older)

*Marion washed **the children's older clothes** in the machine.* (= the clothes are older)

Classifying possessives describe the type of thing something is. They answer the question 'What kind of...?' and are similar to compound nouns (➤ Unit 70):

*Janice has opened a shop specialising in **children's clothes**.* (= clothes any children can wear)

! An adjective in front of a classifying possessive describes the whole phrase:

*Janice's shop had a large selection of **expensive children's clothes**.*

(= The children's clothes are expensive, not the children.)

## Practice

### 1 Choose the correct meaning, A or B.

- 1 Stephanie loved her beautiful daughter's sports car.  
A Stephanie's daughter was beautiful. B The sports car was beautiful.
- 2 She inherited a wonderful wooden dolls' house.  
A The dolls are made of wood. B The house is made of wood.
- 3 The company manufactures low-cost nurses' uniforms.  
A The nurses earn low wages. B The uniforms aren't expensive.
- 4 Gary didn't think much of his new boss's management techniques.  
A Gary has a new boss. B Gary's boss has some new management techniques.
- 5 Bill and Suzy found hiring a well-educated children's nanny was worth every penny.  
A Their nanny was well-educated. B Their children were well-educated.
- 6 I managed to find a place in the 24-hour supermarket's parking lot.  
A The supermarket is open 24 hours. B The parking lot is open 24 hours.
- 7 Dave was often embarrassed by his aggressive flatmate's comments.  
A Dave's flatmate was aggressive. B His flatmate's comments were aggressive.
- 8 My uncle is restoring a redundant tax-inspectors' office in Newcastle.  
A Some tax inspectors have been made redundant in Newcastle.  
B The office in Newcastle is no longer required by the tax inspectors.

### 2 GRAMMAR IN USE Find nine more mistakes in the conversation and correct them.

#### 2.04 Listen and check.

- SOPHIE Who's coming with us to the exhibition on Saturday?
- MAREK Well, apart from me and Kylie, there's Mike and Sandra, my <sup>brother-in-law's</sup> ~~brother's-in-law's~~ nephew, Paul, and Harry.
- SOPHIE Harry? Is he a friend of you?
- MAREK No, he's coming with Paul – he's a cousin of him.
- SOPHIE What's the exhibition about, anyway?
- MAREK It's an exhibition by the art's gallery's new discovery – Stephen Brewer.
- SOPHIE Oh yes, I've just read an article about him in the local's paper culture section.
- MAREK Yes, it was written by our next-door's neighbour's wife – she's a well-known art critic, apparently.
- SOPHIE OK. It sounds like it might be interesting.
- MAREK Great. I thought we might all meet up for lunch first.
- SOPHIE Good idea. That French place's in Green Street reputation is excellent – a colleague mine told me about it, although I haven't been there myself.
- MAREK Right, let's try that place then. By the way, will you be coming by car?
- SOPHIE Why?
- MAREK Well Mike's and Sandra's car is in the garage so they need a lift. Could you take them? They're neighbours of your, aren't they?
- SOPHIE Yes, they are. OK, I suppose so. Shall we meet at one?
- MAREK Fine. I'll tell the others.

## Answers

### UNIT 2

1 1 A 2 B 3 B 4 A 5 A 6 A 7 A 8 B

2 SOPHIE Who's coming with us to the exhibition on Saturday?

MAREK Well, apart from me and Kylie, there's Mike and Sandra, my <sup>brother-in-law's</sup> ~~brother's-in-law's~~ nephew, Paul, and Harry.

SOPHIE Harry? Is he a friend of ~~you~~ yours?

MAREK No, he's coming with Paul - he's a cousin of ~~his~~ him.

SOPHIE What's the exhibition about, anyway?

MAREK It's an exhibition by the ~~art's~~ art gallery's new discovery - Stephen Brewer.

SOPHIE Oh yes, I've just read an article about him in the ~~local's paper~~ local paper's culture section.

MAREK Yes, it was written by our next ~~door's~~ door neighbour's wife - she's a well-known art critic, apparently.

SOPHIE OK. It sounds like it might be interesting.

MAREK Great. I thought we might all meet up for lunch first.

SOPHIE Good idea. That ~~French place's in Green Street~~ French place in Green Street's reputation is excellent - a colleague of mine told me about it, although I haven't been there myself.

MAREK Right, let's try that place then. By the way, will you be coming by car?

SOPHIE Why?

MAREK Well, ~~Mike's and Sandra's~~ Mike and Sandra's car is in the garage so they need a lift. Could you take them? They're neighbours of ~~your~~ yours, aren't they?

SOPHIE Yes, they are. OK, I suppose so. Shall we meet at one?

MAREK Fine. I'll tell the others.



## **Answers**