



# Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

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## **Banta Learning Possessive Adjectives and Pronouns by K S Sandhu**

### **A Perfect Beach Holiday**

Last summer, our family decided to go on holiday with some friends of ours. Sarah and her husband invited us to join them and their two children in a quiet beach town. We rented a spacious house by the sea because none of us wanted to stay in a noisy hotel.

On the first morning, my daughter Lily started arguing with her new boss on the phone. She had asked for a few days off, but he kept sending work messages. "He behaves as if the whole company belongs to him!" she complained loudly. I told her to switch off her phone and enjoy the sun instead.

Our neighbour Clark, who lives next door to the rented house, couldn't come on the beach walk with us. He had broken his ankle playing football the week before. "It's mine now," he joked, pointing at the white plaster on his leg. "This injury completely owns me!"

One afternoon, we noticed a strange car parked in our drive. "Whose car is that?" my husband asked. "It's mine," Sarah laughed. "Sorry, I forgot to move it earlier. I'll do it now."

Later, Maggie left her favourite novel on the garden table. "Does this book belong to Maggie?" my son wondered. "Yes, it's hers," I answered. "She reads it every evening."

The whole idea to visit this beautiful town came from Sue and Jim. They suggested the place, and it was a brilliant idea of theirs. The beaches were clean, the sea was warm, and the restaurants served delicious fresh fish.

One evening, my little boy discovered a small basket in the garden. "Does this basket belong to your cat?" he asked Sarah's daughter. "Yes, it's the cat's," she replied. "He sleeps there every afternoon."

The next day, I needed to calculate our holiday expenses. "I don't have a calculator," I said. "Can I borrow yours, Sarah?" "Of course," she smiled. "Or would you prefer one of your own? Here, take mine."

Before the trip, my generous uncle gave me something exciting. One of my uncles handed me tickets to a big music festival next weekend. An uncle of mine, who loves concerts, knew I would enjoy it.

In the evenings we often remembered our grandparents. My grandparents had a lovely villa in Spain, and they used to spend every summer in it. They loved their villa so much that they even planted flowers around it themselves.

On our last morning, Sarah asked, "Do you need a towel for the beach?" "No, thanks," I replied. "I've brought one of mine. Actually, I've brought a towel of my own, just in case."

While we were having coffee, we met a friendly girl. "Have you met Louise?" Sarah asked. "She's one of Laura's friends." "More precisely," Louise added with a smile, "I'm a friend of Laura's from school."

The holiday was truly unforgettable. Our friends' company, the warm sea, my family's laughter, and even a little sunburn – including mine – made it special. We returned home tired but happy, already planning the next trip together.

### **Questions:**

Question 1: Why couldn't Clark join the beach walk with the others?

Question 2: Whose idea was it to go to this beach town, and what did the narrator think of the suggestion?

Question 3: What did Sarah say when the family asked about the car parked in the drive?

Question 4: Who gave the narrator tickets to a music festival, and how is this person described in two different ways in the story?

Question 5: What did the narrator's grandparents use to do every summer, and where did they spend that time?

### **Answers:**

Answer 1: Clark couldn't join the beach walk because he had broken his ankle and was wearing a plaster on his leg.

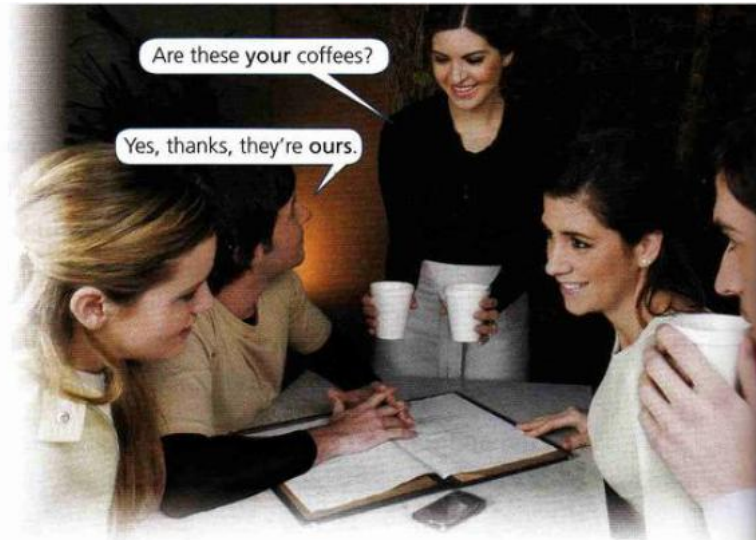
Answer 2: It was Sue and Jim's idea to go to this beach town. The narrator thought it was a brilliant idea of theirs.

Answer 3: Sarah said, "It's mine," and then apologised and said she would move it.

Answer 4: One of the narrator's uncles / An uncle of mine gave the narrator the tickets. He is described as generous.

Answer 5: The narrator's grandparents used to spend every summer in their villa in Spain.

# 7 Possessive adjectives and pronouns



- 1 Possessive adjectives and pronouns**  
 Possessive adjectives and possessive pronouns tell us who things belong to.  
*Are these **your** coffees?*  
*Yes, thanks, they're **ours**.*

	SINGULAR					PLURAL		
subject pronouns	<i>I</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>he</i>	<i>she</i>	<i>it</i>	<i>we</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>they</i>
possessive adjectives	<i>my</i>	<i>your</i>	<i>his</i>	<i>her</i>	<i>its</i>	<i>our</i>	<i>your</i>	<i>their</i>
possessive pronouns	<i>mine</i>	<i>yours</i>	<i>his</i>	<i>hers</i>	<i>- *</i>	<i>ours</i>	<i>yours</i>	<i>theirs</i>

\* There is no possessive pronoun form of *it*. *The green bowl is (X its) the cat's.* (= It belongs to the cat.)

## 2 Possessive adjectives

We use possessive adjectives to replace a noun + 's (► Unit 6.2):

*Lewis is **Yolanda's** son.* → *Lewis is **her** son.*

*That's **my** grandparents' house.* → *That's **their** house.*

The possessive adjective depends on the noun it replaces:

*Brad's son = **his** son* *Brad's daughter = **his** daughter* (X ~~her~~ daughter)

*Anna's son = **her** son* (X ~~his~~ son) *Anna's daughter = **her** daughter*

We usually use possessive adjectives with parts of the body:

*Please raise **your** hand if you need more paper.* ***My** back is really painful today.*

- ⚠ Remember that *its* is different from *it's* (= it is):  
*The cat hasn't eaten **its** food. I think **it's** ill.* (= it is ill)

## 3 Possessive pronouns

If it's clear who/what we are talking about, we can use possessive pronouns.

They replace a possessive adjective and noun:

*The cappuccino is **mine**.* (my cappuccino)

*I didn't have a seat so Brad offered me **his**.* (his seat)

- ⚠ We don't use *a*, *an*, *the* or 's with possessive adjectives and pronouns:  
 X *That's my passport and this is the your's.* ✓ *That's my passport and this is yours.*

## 4 a friend of John's, mine, hers, etc.

When someone has more than one of something, we can use *a/an* + noun +

- *of* + noun + 's: *'That's a good idea.'* 'Actually, it was **an idea of John's**.' (one of John's ideas)
- *of* + possessive pronoun: *Gerald is **a cousin of mine** from Devon.* (one of my cousins)

X *a cousin of me / a cousin of my* ✓ *a cousin of mine*

To emphasise that something belongs to someone, we use *a/an* + noun

+ *my/your/our*, etc. *own*:

*I don't like sharing – I've always wanted **a flat of my own**.* (my flat, for me only)

*Fran and Chris have got **a small business of their own**.* (not owned by anyone else)

## Practice

- 1 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Read the information below. Then complete the conversation with the words from the box. **2.14** Listen and check.

Three friends are in a café. Amy orders a large cappuccino and a tuna sandwich. Olivia orders a cup of tea, a pasta salad and a piece of carrot cake. Maria orders a cola, a cheese omelette and a piece of carrot cake.

hers hers ~~mine~~ mine is my Olivia's ours that yours yours

- |        |   |                |   |
|--------|---|----------------|---|
| WAITER | Here, we are. One large cappuccino.                 | WAITER         | OK, two carrot cakes. Who are they for?             |
| AMY    | That's (0) <i>mine</i> ....., thanks.               | OLIVIA & MARIA | Oh, they're (5) .....                               |
| WAITER | And a cup of tea.                                   | MARIA          | Mmm, they look good.                                |
| AMY    | Maria, isn't that (1) .....                         | WAITER         | And, finally, a tuna sandwich. Is (6) ....., madam? |
| MARIA  | No, (2) ..... the cola.                             | MARIA          | No, I think it's (7) ..... Amy?                     |
| WAITER | Whose is the tea, then?                             | AMY            | Oh, yes. Thanks.                                    |
| AMY    | I think it's (3) .....                              | MARIA          | Where's (8) ..... cheese omelette?                  |
| OLIVIA | Yes, that's right, it's mine.                       |                |   |
| WAITER | What about this pasta salad?                        |                |   |
| AMY    | Oh, that's (4) ....., too. Olivia, take your salad. |                |   |

- 2 Find and correct the mistake in each sentence.

- We're going on holiday with some friends of ~~our~~ <sup>ours</sup>.
- My daughter argues all the time with his new boss.
- Clark couldn't come on the walk because he'd broken the ankle.
- 'Whose car is parked in the drive?' 'It's the mine. I'll move it.'
- 'Does this book belong to Maggie?' 'Yes, it's her.'
- Sue and Jim suggested this restaurant. It was a good idea of them.
- 'Does this basket belong to your cat?' 'Yes, it's its.'

- 3 Complete the second sentence so it means the same as the first. Use two to five words in your answer. **2.15** Listen and check.

- I don't have a calculator. Can I borrow yours?  
Can I borrow your calculator? I don't have one *of my own*.....
- One of my uncles has given me tickets to the music festival next weekend.  
An ..... has given me tickets *ours* to the music festival next weekend.
- My grandparents had a villa in Spain and they used to spend every summer in it.  
My grandparents used to spend every summer in ..... in Spain.
- I bought two yoghurts. I've eaten mine and yours is in the fridge.  
..... is in the fridge. I've eaten mine.
- 'Do you need a towel?' 'No, I've brought one of mine, thanks.'  
'Do you need a towel?' 'No, I've brought a towel ....., thanks.'
- Have you met Louise? She's one of Laura's friends.  
Have you met Louise? She's a .....

## Answers

### UNIT 7

**1** 1 yours 2 mine is 3 Olivia's 4 hers 5 ours  
6 that yours 7 hers 8 my

**2** 1 ~~his~~ her  
2 ~~the~~ his (ankle)  
3 ~~the mine~~ mine  
4 ~~her~~ hers  
5 of ~~them~~ theirs.  
6 ~~it's~~ the cat's/his/hers.

**3** 1 uncle of mine 2 their villa 3 Your yoghurt  
4 of my own 5 friend of Laura's