

# Possessive adjectives and pronouns

## 9.1 Possessive adjectives

	Singular		Plural	
1st pers.	<b>mijn/m'n boek</b>	<i>my book</i>	<b>ons huis</b>	<i>our house</i>
			<b>onze auto</b>	<i>our car</i>
2nd pers.	<b>jouw/je auto</b>	<i>your car (informal)</i>	<b>jullielje fiets</b>	<i>your bicycle (informal)</i>
	<b>uw huis</b>	<i>your (formal) house</i>		
3rd pers.	<b>zijn/z'n moeder</b>	<i>his mother</i>	<b>hun bus</b>	<i>their bus</i>
	<b>haar/d'r vader</b>	<i>her father</i>		
	<b>zijn/z'n hok (het dier)</b>	<i>its doghouse</i>		

- 1 Unstressed forms are used in everyday speech and occasionally written.
- 2 **Jouw** is used only for special emphasis, the usual form even in writing being **je**:

A: **Hij gaat met mij naar het concert.**      A: He is going to the concert with me.

B: **Met jou?**      B: With you?

A: **Ja, verbaast je dat?**      A: Yes, does that surprise you?

- 3 Spelling difference between **jouw** and **jou** (possessive and object), between **uw** and **u**:

**Heeft u uw kaartje bij u?**

Do you have your ticket with you?

**Gaat jouw vader met jou naar de film?**

Is your father going to the movies with you?

- 4 Once the form **jullie** has been used in the sentence, **je** can be its unstressed form:

**Jullie houden natuurlijk liever je boek bij je.**

Of course, you'd rather keep your book with you.

- 5 **Ons/onze**: the use depends on the gender of the following noun: **ons** for neuter singular nouns; **onze** in *all* other cases:

**Dat is ons boek.** → **Dat zijn onze boeken.**

That is our book. → Those are our books.

**Dat is onze auto.** → **Dat zijn onze auto's.**

That is our car. → Those are our cars.

- 6 **D'r** is regularly heard in the Netherlands, but not in Flanders:

**Heb je d'r boek gezien?** Have you seen her book?

**Ze komt met d'r man.** She's coming with her husband.

**9.1.1 Let's try it**

Put the possessive in the blank.

- 1 Vorige week heb ik \_\_\_\_\_ beste vriendin helpen verhuizen.
- 2 Heb jij \_\_\_\_\_ boek gezien? Ik ben het kwijt.
- 3 Hij gaat samen met \_\_\_\_\_ ouders naar de diploma-uitreiking.
- 4 De Koningin ging samen met \_\_\_\_\_ kleinkinderen op de foto.
- 5 Heeft u gisteren \_\_\_\_\_ paraplu nog gevonden?
- 6 De hond was \_\_\_\_\_ speeltje kwijt.
- 7 Jullie houden natuurlijk liever \_\_\_\_\_ jas aan.

- 8 Wij gaan samen met \_\_\_\_\_ vrienden op skivakantie in Oostenrijk.
- 9 Dit is \_\_\_\_\_ huis: we wonen er al drie jaar.
- 10 Zij gaan met \_\_\_\_\_ hele hebben en houden verhuizen.

## 9.2 Adjective endings after possessives

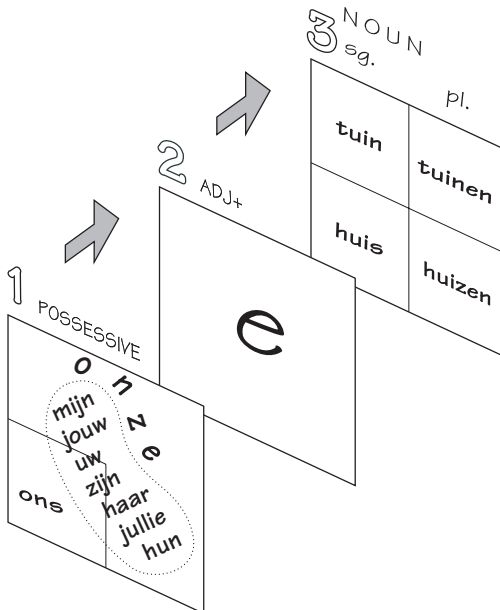
Adjectives modifying a noun require an adjective ending when they are preceded by a possessive. The possessive is not considered indefinite. So a neuter singular noun preceded by a possessive has a modifying adjective with an ending. Note that **ons** has no ending when it precedes a neuter singular noun with modifying adjective:

**Mijn hele gezin.** My entire family.

**Haar nieuwe huis.** Her new house.

**Ons kleine land.** Our small country.

**Onze kleine stad.** Our small town.



**9.3 Possessive pronouns**

The Dutch equivalent of “mine,” “yours,” “ours,” etc. can be expressed in one of two ways.

**9.3.1 Formal**

The definite article appropriate to the noun is placed before one of the above possessives, to which -e is added:

<b>Hier is mijn krant.</b>	→	<b>Dat is de mijne.</b>
Here is my newspaper.	→	That is mine.
<b>Daar is jouw boek.</b>	→	<b>Dat is het jouwe.</b>
There is your book.	→	That is yours.
<b>Ik heb uw kopje.</b>	→	<b>Ik heb het uwe.</b>
That is your cup.	→	That is yours.
<b>Dat is zijn huis.</b>	→	<b>Dat is het zijne.</b>
That is his house.	→	That is his.
<b>Dat is haar vader.</b>	→	<b>Dat is de hare.</b>
That is her father.	→	That is hers.
<b>Het is zijn hok.</b>	→	<b>Het is het zijne.</b>
That is his doghouse.	→	That is his.
<b>Nee, dat is niet ons bed.</b>	→	<b>Nee, dat is niet het onze.</b>
No, that isn't our bed.	→	No, that is not ours.
<b>Dit zijn jullie kinderen.</b>	→	<b>Dit zijn die VAN jullie.</b>
These are your children.	→	These are yours.
<b>Hun huisdieren zijn lief.</b>	→	<b>De hunne zijn lief.</b>
Their pets are nice.	→	Theirs are nice.

**9.3.2 Informal: the van construction**

The other frequently used construction, characteristic especially of the spoken language, is the use of the object pronoun preceded by **van** and the appropriate demonstrative:

<b>Hier is mijn krant.</b>	→	<b>Die van jou is daar.</b>
Here is my newspaper.	→	Yours is there.
<b>Zijn huis is groot.</b>	→	<b>Dat van jou is klein.</b>
His house is large.	→	Yours is small.

- 1 The **van** construction is obligatory with **jullie**:

**Ons huis is klein, maar dat van jullie is groot.**

Our house is small, but yours is large.

- 2 The **van** construction is usual after a form of the verb **zijn** “to be”:

**Dit boek is van mij.** This book is mine.

**Is die auto van jou?** Is that car yours?

**Ja, die is van mij.** Yes, it is mine.

- 3 The construction with **van** is the regular way of expressing the possessive in Dutch, corresponding to the English use of “of”:

**de ramen van het huis** the windows of the house

Unlike English, Dutch also uses this with reference to persons:

**de ogen van Marieke** Mary’s eyes

- 4 The preposition **van** is used before **wie** “who” to express an interrogative possessive:

**Van wie is dit boek?** Whose book is this?

### 9.3.3 Other constructions for possessives

D’r/z’n/hun construction:

**Jan z’n moeder is ziek.** Jan’s mother is sick.

**Mijn ouders hun hond is klein.** My parents’ dog is small.

**Ilse d’r kat is dood.** Ilse’s cat is dead.

**Wie z’n boek is dit?** Whose book is this?

In spoken informal language this construction is used with the third person singular or plural.

Or add an -s:

**Miekes moeder is ziek.** Mieke’s mother is sick.

**Jans vader werkt niet.** Jan’s father doesn’t work.

**Hanna’s zus studeert.** Hanna’s sister is a student.

**Els' boek ligt op tafel.**

Els's book is on the table.

**Beatrix' kleinkinderen.**

Beatrix's grandchildren.

Just as in English, an -s can be added to a noun to express possession. The spelling rules apply, as is clear from the examples: no apostrophe unless the noun ends in a vowel other than -e or when the last letter is an s or x.

**9.3.4 Let's try it**

Part one: supply the possessive pronoun.

- 1 Dit is jouw boek. Daar ligt \_\_\_\_\_. (*mine*)
- 2 Is dat jullie auto? Nee, dat is niet \_\_\_\_\_. (*ours*)
- 3 Van wie is dit kopje koffie? Is het \_\_\_\_\_. (*yours, formal*)
- 4 Hier hangt mijn jas: die van \_\_\_\_\_ ligt daar op de grond. (*hers*)
- 5 Ons huis is klein, maar dat van \_\_\_\_\_ is erg groot. (*yours, plural*)

Part two: fill in the right possessive.

- 1 In \_\_\_\_\_ kamer staat een grote boekenkast. (*I*)
- 2 Heeft \_\_\_\_\_ vader al die boeken voor \_\_\_\_\_ aangeschaft? (*you*)
- 3 Houd \_\_\_\_\_ tas altijd bij \_\_\_\_\_, er wordt hier veel gestolen. (*you, formal*)
- 4 Zij vergist \_\_\_\_\_ niet zo vaak in de datum. (*she*)
- 5 Hij gaat volgend jaar met \_\_\_\_\_ hele gezin naar Engeland emigreren. (*he*)
- 6 Zie je het hondje daar? \_\_\_\_\_ baas loopt hem al een tijd te zoeken. (*it*)
- 7 Van wie is die auto? Dat is de \_\_\_\_\_. (*we*)
- 8 Ken je Karel en Thea? Daar zie ik \_\_\_\_\_ net lopen. Zal ik je even aan \_\_\_\_\_ voorstellen? (*they*)

## Table of all pronouns in Dutch

Pronouns												
Subject			Object			Reflexive			Possessive			
	Stressed	Un-stressed	English	Stressed	Un-stressed	English	Stressed	Un-stressed	English	Stressed	Un-stressed	
1	<b>ik</b>	'k	I	<b>mij</b>	<b>me</b>	me	–	<b>me</b>	<b>myself</b>	<b>mijn</b>	<b>m'n</b>	my
2	<b>jij</b>	<b>je</b>	you	<b>jou</b>	<b>je</b>	you	–	<b>je</b>	<b>yourself</b>	<b>jouw</b>	<b>je</b>	your
3	<b>hij</b>	<b>ie</b>	he	<b>hem</b>	'm	him	–	<b>zich</b>	<b>himself</b>	<b>zijn</b>	<b>z'n</b>	his
	<b>zij</b>	<b>ze</b>	she	<b>haar</b>	<b>d'r</b>	her	–	<b>zich</b>	<b>herself</b>	<b>haar</b>	<b>d'r</b>	her
	<b>het</b>	't	it	<b>het</b>	't	it	–	<b>zich</b>	<b>itself</b>	<b>zijn</b>	<b>z'n</b>	its
	<b>u</b>	–	you	<b>u</b>	–	you	–	<b>zich</b>	<b>yourself</b>	<b>uw</b>	–	your
1	<b>wij</b>	<b>we</b>	we	<b>ons</b>	–	us	–	<b>ons</b>	<b>ourselves</b>	<b>ons/ onze</b>	–	our
2	<b>jullie</b>	<b>je</b>	you	<b>jullie</b>	<b>je</b>	you	–	<b>je</b>	<b>yourselves</b>	<b>jullie</b>	<b>je</b>	your
3	<b>zij</b>	<b>ze</b>	they	<b>hen</b>	<b>ze</b>	them	–	<b>zich</b>	<b>themselves</b>	<b>hun</b>	<b>d'r</b>	their