

French 1

Chapter 3.2 Grammar Review

Possessive Adjectives

1. Possessive Adjectives show ownership and like all adjectives must agree in **gender** and **number** with the **thing that is being possessed**. The following are the Possessive Adjectives:

	Masculine Singular	Feminine Singular	Plural
my	<i>mon</i>	<i>ma</i>	<i>mes</i>
your (<i>tu</i>)	<i>ton</i>	<i>ta</i>	<i>tes</i>
his / her / its	<i>son</i>	<i>sa</i>	<i>ses</i>
our	<i>notre</i>	<i>notre</i>	<i>nos</i>
your (<i>vous</i>)	<i>votre</i>	<i>votre</i>	<i>vos</i>
their	<i>leur</i>	<i>leur</i>	<i>leurs</i>

Ex: *Ma sœur* est petite → *Mes sœurs* sont petites

Ex: *Son frère* est sportif → *Ses frères* sont sportifs.

2. For **singular** nouns that begin with a **vowel**, use the masculine form, even if the thing that is being possessed is feminine. This does not apply if an adjective beginning with a consonant precedes it.
Ex: C'est **mon amie** Julie. → (*amie* is in the feminine form, but it begins with a vowel)
Ex: C'est **ma belle amie**. → (*belle* precedes *amie*, therefore no change is needed)
3. To express the English equivalent of the possessive **'s** with a **person's name**, (such as *Scott's*), use the preposition "**de**". Notice in French that the possessor and the thing possessed switch places.
Ex: C'est le frère **de** Sophie → (*It's Sophie's brother*)
Ex: Ce sont les sœurs **d'**Amelie → (*They're Amelie's sisters*)

Contractions with “**de**”

1. The preposition “**de**” usually means “of” or “from” in English. In French, “**de**” contracts with the articles **le** and **les**. There is no contraction with **la** or **l'**.

Contractions with “ de ”			
	Before	→	After
Masculine	de + le		<i>du</i>
Feminine	de + la		<i>de la</i>
Before Vowel	de + l'		<i>de l'</i>
Plural	de + les		<i>des</i>

Contractions with “*de*” (*cont.*)

2. Contractions with “*de*” are used to express the English equivalent of the possessive ‘s’, when a person’s name (or proper noun) is NOT used (such as *the boy’s*). This is because articles are required before nouns (ex: *cat* = *le chat*):

Ex: Le père *du* garçon est petit → (*The boy’s father is small*)

Ex: Le chat *des* enfants est gros → (*The children’s cat is fat*)

3. Unlike English, where contractions are optional, in French they are **REQUIRED!**

Ex: Le père *de le* garçon est petit (*ungrammatical*) → Le père *du* garçon est petit (*grammatical*)

Ex: Le chat *de les* filles est petit (*ungrammatical*) → Le chat *des* filles est petit (*grammatical*)

4. **REMEMBER:** Contractions only occur with *le* and *les*. For example:

Ex: Ça, c’est le livre *du* professeur: → (*de + le*)

Ex: Ce sont les chocolats *de la* fille blonde. → (*de + la*)

Ex: Ça, c’est la voiture *de l’* amie de Claire → (*de + l’*)

Ex: Ça, c’est le père *des* frères Smith. → (*de + les*)

“*C’est*” versus “*Il/Elle est*”

1. Use “*Il/Elle est*” or “*Ils/Elles sont*” when you use an **adjective by itself**, with no noun.

Ex: Elle est *belle* → (*In this case, belle is being used by itself*)

Ex: Ils sont *marrants et jolis* → (*In this case, marrants and jolis are used with no noun*)

2. Use “*C’est*” or “*Ce sont*” with:

a. a **person’s name**: Ex: C’est Chelsea! → (*It’s Chelsea!*)

b. with an **article + noun**: Ex: C’est une étudiante. → (*She’s a student*)

c. with a **possessive adjective + noun**: Ex: Ce sont mes cousins → (*They’re my cousins*)

d. with an **article + noun + adjective**: Ex: C’est une fille forte → (*She’s a strong girl*)

3. To form a negative sentence, place **ne** and **pas** around the conjugation of **Être**.

***REMEMBER:** **ne** becomes **n’** before a vowel sound and **de** becomes **d’** before a vowel sound.

Ex: C’est une étudiante → Ce **n’est pas** une étudiante

Ex: Ce sont mes cousins → Ce **ne sont pas** mes cousins

Ex: Ce sont des amies marrantes → Ce **ne sont pas d’** amies marrantes.

Ex: Ce sont des garçons forts → Ce **ne sont pas de** garçons forts.

Ex: Elle est belle → Elle **n’est pas** belle.

Ex: Ils sont méchants → Ils **ne sont pas** méchants.