

Lesson 3

Possessive Pronouns

mine - ours, yours - yours, his/hers - theirs

A possessive pronoun expresses who owns what, or who is related with whom. The possessive pronouns are used instead of the personal pronouns we learned in Lesson 1. The form, however, changes with the gender of the noun possessed or person (related to).

3.1 Possessive Pronouns for Masculine Singular Nouns

The following are used for masculine singular nouns or neutral nouns expressed as masculine (it). **Example 3.1**

Person	Singular	Plural
1	yuKw = (he is) mine	ynaKw = (he is) ours
2 (m)	kuKw = yours	entaKw = yours
2 (f)	kuKw = yours	entaKw = yours
3 (m)	niKw = his	naKw = theirs
3 (f)	nruKw = hers	naKw = theirs

When the possessive pronoun mine, yours, etc. stands for a father, a brother, and a friend:

yuKw gn	=	He (It) is mine (father, brother, friend or thing)
kuKw gn	=	He is yours
niKw gn	=	He is his
entaKw gn	=	It is yours

3.2 Possessive Pronouns for Feminine Singular Nouns

The following are used when the possessive pronoun stands for a feminine, singular noun (you, she, they as in **gena** = mother, **shani** = sister) or stands for a neutral noun expressed as a feminine (it) (**Ili** = an eye, **erqui** = a tooth, **arba** = the moon, **kwara** = the sun). **Example 3.2**

Person	Singular	Plural
1	yri = (she is) mine	yneri = ours
2 (m)	kuri = yours	enteri = yours
2 (f)	kuri = yours	enteri = yours
3 (m)	niri = his	nari = theirs
3 (f)	nrđi = hers	nari = theirs

The possessive pronoun mine, yours, his etc. stands for a feminine person such as a mother, a sister, or a friend **enti yri gn** = you (feminine) are mine. The same can be said of the third person feminine she (**nri**). **nri yri gn** = she is mine. In both 3.1 and 3.2 the noun referred to is singular (3.1 it is of masculine gender while in 3.2 it is of a feminine gender). We have different possessive pronouns for plural nouns (3.3 below).
