

3. DEFINITE ARTICLE — Depending on the gender and number of the noun possessed, place the appropriate definite article before the possessive adjective (see pp. 16-7 in *What is an Article?*).
4. ENDING — Depending on the gender and number of the noun possessed, add the appropriate ending to the possessive adjective (except for **loro** and **Loro** which are invariable).

SINGULAR

masculine → -o

feminine → -a

PLURAL

masculine → -i (except for **mi-** which adds -ei, and **tu-**, **su-**, and **Su-** which add -oi)

feminine → -e

5. SELECTION — The definite article + the possessive adjective + the noun possessed should agree in gender and number.

Below are examples of how these steps are applied to sentences with each possible possessor.

"My"

I have my books.

1. GENDER AND NUMBER OF NOUN POSSESSED:

Libri books is masculine plural.

2. POSSESSOR: my

mi-

3. & 4. DEFINITE ARTICLE & ENDING:

i + -ei

5. SELECTION: **i miei libri**

Ho **i miei libri**.

"Your" — In the case of the possessive adjective *your*, you will have to consider additional factors:

- a. FAMILIAR OR FORMAL — Is the familiar or formal form of address appropriate (see pp. 32-4)?
- b. NUMBER — Does *your* address one person (singular) or more than one person (plural)?

Is this your house? [addressing a child]

1. GENDER AND NUMBER OF NOUN POSSESSED:

Casa house is feminine singular.

2. POSSESSOR: your

a. FORMAL OR FAMILIAR: familiar

b. SINGULAR OR PLURAL: singular

tu-

3. & 4. DEFINITE ARTICLE & ENDING:

la + -a

5. SELECTION: **la tua casa**

È questa **la tua casa?**

Is this your house? [addressing more than one child]

1. GENDER AND NUMBER OF NOUN POSSESSED:

Casa house is feminine singular.

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2. POSSESSOR: your

a. FORMAL OR FAMILIAR: familiar

b. SINGULAR OR PLURAL: plural

vostr-

3. & 4. DEFINITE ARTICLE & ENDING:

la + -a

5. SELECTION: **la vostra casa**

È questa **la vostra casa**?

Is this your house? [addressing an unfamiliar adult]

1. GENDER AND NUMBER OF NOUN POSSESSED:

Casa house is feminine singular.

2. POSSESSOR: your

a. FORMAL OR FAMILIAR: formal

b. SINGULAR OR PLURAL: singular

Su-

3. & 4. DEFINITE ARTICLE & ENDING:

la + -a

5. SELECTION: **la Sua casa**

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È questa **la Sua casa**?

Is this your house? [addressing more than one unfamiliar adult]

1. GENDER AND NUMBER OF NOUN POSSESSED:

Casa house is feminine singular.

2. POSSESSOR: your

a. FORMAL OR FAMILIAR: formal

b. SINGULAR OR PLURAL: plural

Loro

3. DEFINITE ARTICLE:

la

4. SELECTION: **la Loro casa**

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È questa **la Loro casa**?

Since **Loro** is invariable, the gender and number of the possessive adjective are only indicated by the definite article.

“His, her, its” — Since Italian possessive adjectives only agree with the noun possessed and do not identify the gender of the possessor, when translating into English you will have to rely on context to determine whether *his*, *her* or *its* is the appropriate possessive adjective.

Mary reads her books.

1. GENDER AND NUMBER OF NOUN POSSESSED:

Libri books is masculine plural.

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2. POSSESSOR: her

su-

3. & 4. DEFINITE ARTICLE & ENDING:

i + -oi

5. SELECTION: **i suoi libri**

Maria legge **i suoi libri**.

Mario reads his books.

1. GENDER AND NUMBER OF POSSESSED:

Libri books is masculine plural.

2. POSSESSOR: his

su-

3. & 4. DEFINITE ARTICLE & ENDING:

i + -oi

5. SELECTION: **i suoi libri**

Mario legge **i suoi libri**.

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“Our”

Our house is downtown.

- 1. GENDER AND NUMBER OF NOUN POSSESSED:
Casa house is feminine singular.
- 2. POSSESSOR: our nostr-
- 3. & 4. DEFINITE ARTICLE & ENDING: la + -a
- 5. SELECTION: **la nostra casa**

La nostra casa è in centro.

“Their” — Since **loro** is invariable, the gender and number of the possessive adjective are indicated only by the definite article.

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This is their house.

- 1. GENDER AND NUMBER OF NOUN POSSESSED:
Casa house is feminine singular.
- 2. POSSESSOR: their loro
- 3. DEFINITE ARTICLE: la
- 4. SELECTION: **la loro casa**

Questa è la loro casa.

These are their houses.

- 1. GENDER AND NUMBER OF NOUN POSSESSED:
Case houses is feminine plural.
- 2. POSSESSOR: their loro
- 3. DEFINITE ARTICLE: le
- 4. SELECTION: **le loro case**

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Queste sono le loro case.

SUMMARY

Here is a chart of the possessive adjectives you can use as reference.

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POSSESSOR	SINGULAR		PLURAL	
	MASC.	FEM.	MASC.	FEM.
<i>my</i>	il mio	la mia	i miei	le mie
<i>your</i> [fam. sing.]	il tuo	la tua	i tuoi	le tue
<i>his, her, its</i>	il suo	la sua	i suoi	le sue
<i>your</i> [form. sing.]	il Suo	la Sua	i Suoi	le Sue
<i>our</i>	il nostro	la nostra	i nostri	le nostre
<i>your</i> [fam. pl.]	il vostro	la vostra	i vostri	le vostre
<i>their</i>	il loro	la loro	i loro	le loro
<i>your</i> [form. pl.]	il Loro	la Loro	i Loro	le Loro