

Saxon Genitive (special cases)

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Omitting the noun

We can omit the noun if it has already been mentioned or it is understood:

- Is that Peter's car? - No, that's **Kevin's** (= Kevin's car).
- This is my book and this is **Mike's** (=Mike's book).

For the same reason, when the context is clear we don't mention the "thing" possessed when we are talking about some places: people's house, shop, church or firm

the **hairdresser's** = the hairdresser's salon ; the **doctor's** = the doctor's surgery

- We had to take our cat to the **vet's** twice last month (=the vet's clinic).
- On a Sunday when we went to **Grandma's** for tea. (= Grandma's house.)
- We had a beer at **Paco's** (=Paco's bar).
- They got married at **St Joseph's** (=St Joseph's church).
- I went to the **baker's** (=the baker's shop).
- I must go to the **doctor's** (=the doctor's office).
- Debra hasn't been to the **dentist's** for a long time (=the dentist's office).

Double Possessive or Double Genitive

The double genitive occurs when we find two possessives together in the same sentence.

We form the possessive case with double genitive by putting the preposition **of** before a noun which also takes apostrophe and -s (**'s**).

Structure 1: Subject + verb + (object) + of + possessive pronoun

- He is a friend of mine.

Structure 2: Subject + verb + (object) + of + noun + possessive ('s)

- ✓ I am a friend of your **son's**. / ✗ I am a friend of your son.

Note the difference in meaning between the two sentences below.

This is a picture of my father. (= We can see him in the picture.)

This is a picture of my **father's**. (=The picture belongs to my father.)

Shared possession

Compound possessives (also called joint possessives)

They occur when two or more nouns (usually names) share ownership of something.

If two people have one thing in common, the **'s** is added only to the second, whereas if each has their own thing, the **'s** is added to both nouns.

- We saw John and **Jane's** children (John and Jane have children together).
- We saw **John's** and **Jane's** children (John and Jane have children separately).

Compound possessives with nouns and pronouns.

We add **'s** to the noun to make it possessive and we make sure the pronoun is possessive (i.e. mine, yours, his, hers...). Since a possessive adjective/pronoun already shows possession, we don't need to add **'s**.

- Jack's and my business is making a profit. (Jack and I share a business.)
- Today is Kevin, Susan's, and my birthday.
- This car is John's and mine. (It belongs to us both.)
- The report is Bill's and hers. (They both wrote the report.)
- This is John's and my car. (We both own the car.)