

14.2 Reflexive pronouns

A reflexive pronoun reflects the action of a verb back to the subject or, rarely, to the object of a sentence:

Er hat sich einen Videorecorder gekauft.	<i>He bought himself a video recorder.</i>
Er hörte die Leute sich streiten.	<i>He heard the people arguing amongst themselves.</i>

Reflexive pronouns are used in the accusative and the dative. In both cases **sich** is the form for the third person singular and plural and for the polite form **Sie**. All the other forms are identical to the personal pronouns (14.1.1). For an overview of the forms, their combination with verbs, the case of the reflexive pronoun and its position in the sentence, see 27.

14.3 Possessive pronouns and adjectives

■ **14.3.1** A possessive pronoun replaces a noun and indicates its possessor:

Wessen Wagen ist das?	<i>Whose car is that?</i>
Das ist meiner .	<i>That's mine.</i>
Wessen Tasche ist das?	<i>Whose bag is that?</i>
Das ist deine .	<i>That's yours.</i>

The possessive pronouns (nominative masculine form) are:

<i>sing.</i> 1. meiner <i>mine</i>	<i>pl.</i> 1. uns(e)rer <i>ours</i>
2. deiner <i>yours</i>	2. eu(e)rer <i>yours</i>
3. seiner <i>his/its</i>	3. ihrer <i>theirs</i>
ihrer <i>hers/its</i>	Ihrer <i>yours (polite)</i>

For ease of pronunciation the bracketed -e- of **uns(e)rer** and **eu(e)rer** is usually omitted in speech.

Possessive pronouns take the same gender, number and case as the noun they replace. They are declined like **dieser** (14.4.1).

	<i>masculine</i>	<i>feminine</i>	<i>neuter</i>	<i>plural</i>
<i>nom.</i>	meiner	meine	mein(e)s	meine
<i>acc.</i>	meinen	meine	mein(e)s	meine
<i>dat.</i>	meinem	meiner	meinem	meinen
<i>gen.</i>	meines	meiner	meines	meiner

The alternative constructions **die meinige** and **die meine** belong mainly to literary usage. They are declined like the definite article plus adjective (9.2.1).

singular: der/die/das meinige/meine, deinige/deine, seinige/seine, ihrige/ihre

plural: der/die/das uns(e)rige/uns(e)re, eu(e)rige/eu(e)re, ihrige/ihre, Ihrige/Ihre

■ **14.3.2** Possessive adjectives (**mein, dein, sein ...**, *my, your, his/its ...*) are used with nouns (**mein Kaffee** – *my coffee*) and are declined in the singular like the indefinite article. The possessive adjective differs from the pronoun only in the masculine nominative singular and the neuter nominative and accusative singular.

	<i>masculine</i>	<i>feminine</i>	<i>neuter</i>	<i>plural</i>
<i>nom.</i>	mein	meine	mein	meine
<i>acc.</i>	meinen	meine	mein	meine
<i>dat.</i>	meinem	meiner	meinem	meinen
<i>gen.</i>	meines	meiner	meines	meiner

14.4 Demonstrative pronouns and adjectives

■ **14.4.1** A demonstrative pronoun singles out someone or something:

Welches Radio möchten Sie?	<i>Which radio would you like?</i>
Das/Dieses möchte ich.	<i>I would like that/this one.</i>