

HE'S A FRIEND OF MY BROTHER'S.

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# DOUBLE POSSESSIVE

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The double possessive (or double genitive) happens when we use: The preposition "of" and a possessive form (like 's or a possessive pronoun like "mine" or "yours").

## Why do we use the Double Possessive?

The double possessive is used when we talk about one of many things or people that someone possesses. It emphasizes that they are part of a group.



Part of a group.	of + possessive pronoun	of + proper noun + 's
I have many friends. They are among them.	They're friends <u>of mine.</u>	
You have many friends. I'm one of them.	I'm a friend <u>of yours.</u>	
Mike has many friends. I'm one of them.	I'm a friend <u>of his.</u>	I'm a friend <u>of Mike's.</u>
Susan has many friends. I'm one of them.	I'm a friend <u>of hers.</u>	I'm a friend <u>of Susan's.</u>
We have many friends. She's one of them.	She's a friend <u>of ours.</u>	
Mike and Susan have many friends. I'm one of them.	I'm a friend <u>of theirs.</u>	<p>I'm a friend of <u>Mike and Susan's.</u> This version treats Mike and Susan as a unit, so the possessive ('s) applies to them together.</p> <p>I'm a friend of <u>Mike's and Susan's.</u> This version emphasizes each person separately, suggesting that you are a friend of both Mike and Susan individually (even if they don't share all their friends).</p>

When to Use the Double Possessive	
When referring to people:	When showing possession:
She is a colleague of mine. She is a colleague of Jack's. He's a neighbour of theirs.	This is a photo of my brother's. (One of his photos) That's a book of Mary's. (One of Mary's books)

Typical mistake	
This is a photo of my brother's. My brother has many photos. This is one of them. It belongs to him.	This is a photo of my brother. The photo shows my brother; he is the subject of the photo.