

Possessive Limiters

Possessive pronouns also limit nouns.

Ex: Her car.

The car is limited to “Her”. It is her possession. In Samoan it is stated as:

O lana ta'avale. = Her car. / It is her car

List of Singular Possessive Limiters

English	Samoan
my	la'u/lo'u
yours	lau/lou
hers/his/it's	lana/lona

English	Samoan
Our 2 (incl)	Le ta
Our 2 (excl)	Le ma
Your 2	Le lua
Their 2	Le la

English	Samoan
Our 3+(incl)	Le tatou
Our 3+(excl)	Le matou
Your 3+	Le Tou/outou
Their 3+	Le latou

A and O words (la'u/lo'u) are differentiated by the type of possession.

“A” words are where the possessor has control over the possession.

“O” words are possessions that are not owned by the possessor, things from God, or things that cover and protect the possessor.

A singular possession can be made plural by removing the “L”.

O la’u ta’avale = My car.

O a’u ta’avale = My cars.

This workbook uses the informal way of plural possessives:

Singular house of ours: o le tatou fale

Singular car of ours: o le tatou ta’avale

Multiple houses of ours: o tatou fale

Multiple cars of ours: o tatou ta’avale

**The formal method uses the “a” and “o” rules of possession.*

Singular house of ours: o lo tatou fale

Singular car of ours: o la tatou ta’avale

Multiple houses of ours: o tatou fale

Multiple cars of ours: o a tatou ta’avale,

List of Plural Possessive Limiters

English	Samoan
my	a’u/o’u
yours	au/ou
hers/his/it’s	ana/ona

English	Samoan
Ours (incl)	ta
Ours (excl)	ma
Yours	lua
Theirs	la

English	Samoan
Ours (incl)	tatou
Our (excl)	matou
Yours	Tou/outou
Theirs	latou

*”ni” can be added before any of the Samoan possessives to make a plural indefinite amount of “some”.

O ni a’u - some of my

O ni matou- some of our

O ni la - some of their

Noun Phrase Exercises

Translate the following phrases to Samoan.

1. My community _____
2. His story _____
3. Our(3 incl) house _____
4. Their(2) business _____
5. Her day _____
6. Their (3) home _____
7. It's life _____
8. My book _____
9. Our (3 ex) sky _____
10. Her hand _____
11. Our (3 incl) sun _____
12. My brother (from a male) _____
13. My brother(from a female) _____
14. My family _____
15. Our(2 ex) room _____
16. His eyes _____
17. Our(3 ex) teachers _____
18. Their(2) plan _____
19. Her box _____
20. My father _____
21. Our (3 ex) mother _____
22. Her student _____
23. Our (2 incl) bird _____
24. My life _____
25. Our (3 incl) theater _____
26. Their (3+) year _____
27. My money _____
28. His problem _____
29. Our(2 ex) night _____
30. Some of their(3) babies _____

1. O lo'u nu'u
2. O lana tala
3. O le tatou fale
4. O le la pinisinisi
5. O lona aso
6. O le latou fale
7. O lona olaga
8. O la'u tusi
9. O le tatou lagi.
10. O lona lima
11. O le tatou la
12. O lo'u uso
13. O lo'u tuagane
14. O lo'u aiga
15. O le ma potu
16. O ona mata
17. O matou faiaoga
18. O le la fuafulaga
19. O lana pusa
20. O lo'u tamā
21. O le matou tinā
22. O lana tamaitiiti/tagata aoga
23. O le ta manulele
24. O lo'u olaga
25. O le tatou tifaga
26. O le latou tausaga
27. O la'u tupe
28. O lana fa'afitauli
29. O le ma po
30. O ni latou pepe