

Cartoon Passages

Note: These instructions are for Mini-lesson 1 and Mini-lesson 2. For each lesson, the students complete 2 cloze passages.

Procedure:

1. Tell students that they are going to look at some cartoons. Underneath each cartoon, there is a story with gaps. They will fill in the gaps with his or her in each story, working in pairs/groups of 3. Tell them to make sure they read the story before filling in the gaps.
2. For each gap, they should ask themselves, "Whose _____ is it?" or "Who does it belong to?". Next, they should draw an arrow from his or her to the possessor. This is very important.

3. When you go through the answers, ask students to explain their choices.

For example, they might say:

I asked myself "Whose sister is it?" It's Anne's sister, and Anne is a girl, so I wrote "her".

A lot of students understand English PDs, but they think that his or her refers to the subject of the sentence. This is not accurate as the PD refers to the person who possesses the noun. For instance, in the following example, the possessor is named in the previous sentence:
John's father won a tennis match in California. Mary saw his father on television yesterday.

4. Ask students, "How do you decide whether to use son or sa in French?" Elicit the rule for French and elicit the rule in English. All the students should be able to state the rule for French PDs and English PDs.