

IN1 - Tema 1.5: Paco: Paco's sister helps her brother (Genitive)



Paco: Paco's sister helps her brother (Genitive)

Inglés

1.º Bachillerato

Contenidos

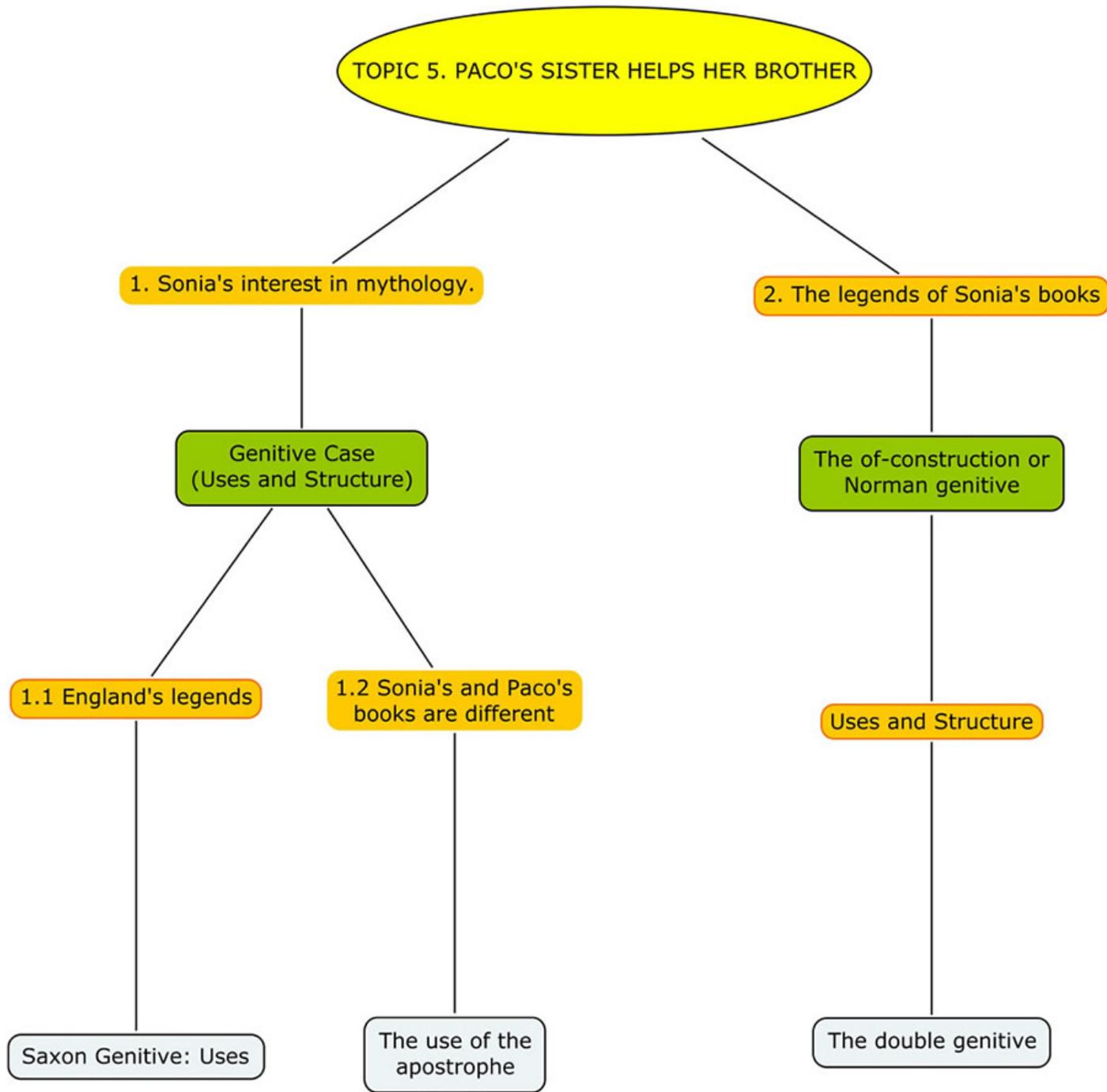
Paco

Paco's sister helps her brother (Genitive)



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Mapa conceptual



TOPIC 5. PACO'S SISTER HELPS HER BROTHER

1. Sonia's interest in mythology.

2. The legends of Sonia's books

Genitive Case (Uses and Structure)

The of-construction or Norman genitive

1.1 England's legends

1.2 Sonia's and Paco's books are different

Uses and Structure

Saxon Genitive: Uses

The use of the apostrophe

The double genitive



Fuentes para el profesorado

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Introducción

Up to now, you have seen lots of examples of the Genitive Case in English. Do you remember how to make it and what it is used for? Don't worry if you can't remember it now, because in this topic we are going to study it in detail! Let's begin!



Reflexiona

Remember! Paco is studying the Genitive Case this week. He finds it difficult. So, he has asked her sister Sonia for help and Sonia is helping him by reading a text about Britain's National Days. Do you remember those days?

- Scotland's National Day is Saint Andrew's Day (30 November).
- Saint David's Day (1 March) is the National Day of Wales.
- England's National Day is Saint George's Day (23 April).
- Saint Patrick's Day (17 March) is an official Bank Holiday in Northern Ireland.

She is using the following passage about the legend of St. George to help his brother. Read the passage.

St. George and the Dragon



St. George was a Roman soldier who travelled for a long time until he arrived in Libya. There he met a hermit who told him that everybody in those lands was really anguished since a dragon had long ravaged the whole country.

The hermit told him that the dragon demanded the sacrifice of a young woman and that there were few women left, for all the young girls had been killed. The only girl who remained was the king's daughter. The old man assured that if they could not find a

knight who could kill the dragon, the princess would be killed by the dragon the following day. According to the hermit, if a knight could defeat the dragon, the king of Egypt would let her daughter marry him.

When St. George heard this story, he decided to try to kill the dragon and save that young woman. Thus, the following day he left for the valley where the dragon lived. Near the valley, he could see a little procession of women. He approached them and they told him that the princess was going to the place where the dragon would sacrifice her. However, he persuaded the princess to go back to the palace. Then he entered the valley and looked for the dragon.

When the dragon saw him it came out of its cave. It had a huge head and its tail was at least fifty feet long. But St. George was not afraid. He struck the monster with his spear, hoping he would wound it.

The dragon's scales* were very hard and the spear broke into lots of pieces and St. George fell from his horse. He recovered his strength quickly and attacked the dragon again. He took his sword and managed to plunge it into the dragon's body, just under one of its wings where there were no scales. The dragon fell dead at his feet.

*scales: escamas.

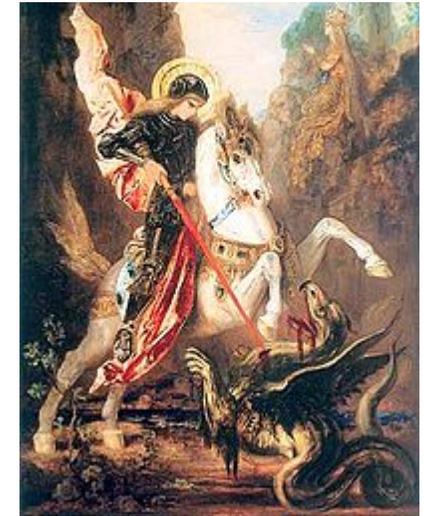


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In the passage Sonia uses to help Paco there are several examples of Saxon Genitives, can you recognize them?

In the text there are three Genitive Cases: **The king's daughter**, **The king of Egypt**, and **The dragon's scales**. Very frequently we use the Saxon Genitive in English to express possession. E.g.: **The dragon's scales** (the scales belong to the dragon, that is, the scales of the dragon). However, the Genitive Case is not always used to express possession. So, in **The king's daughter**, for example, we use the Saxon Genitive to express a relationship. Do you remember Paco's family in Topic 1, Section 5? Antonio is Paco's father and Carlos is Paco's brother.





After reading the text, say if the following sentences are true or false.

1. 'The dragon kills a young woman every single day', said that old man.

- Verdadero Falso

Verdadero

'Every day,' said the old man, 'he demands the sacrifice of a beautiful maiden'

2. The king's daughter, Sabra, will marry the man who manages to kill the dragon.

- Verdadero Falso

Verdadero

The king of Egypt will give his daughter in marriage to the champion who defeats this terrible monster.

3. The king of Egypt's daughter didn't go back to the palace.

- Verdadero Falso

Falso

He persuaded the princess to return to the palace.

4. Saint George defeated the dragon with his spear.

Verdadero Falso

Falso

With his sword in his hand, he rushed at the dragon and pierced it under the wing where there were no scales, so that it fell dead at his feet.



Curiosidad



Bandera de Gales

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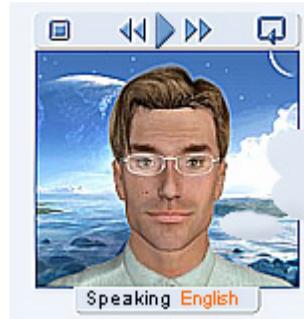
[Dominio Público](#).

April 23: Saint George is not only the patron saint of England, it is also the patron saint of of Aragon, Catalonia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Greece, Lithuania, Palestine, Portugal, and Russia, as well as the cities of Amersfoort (Netherlands), Beirut and Bteghrine (Lebanon), Barcelona and Cáceres (Spain), Ferrara and Genoa (Italy), Freiburg (Germany), Ljubljana (Slovenia), Gozo and Qormi (Malta), Pomorie (Bulgaria), Lod (Israel) and Moscow (Russia). So, April 23 is a holiday in many places worldwide.



Para saber más

Remember to use the robot whenever you doubt how to pronounce a word, phrase or sentence.



[Click here](#) to use Mike

Now that we've briefly reminded you about the Genitive Case , it's time to have a closer look at how it is formed in English. Let's see it in the next section.

1. Sonia's interest in mythology



Reflexiona

Have a look at the following phrases and guess what they have in common.

Paco's tennis rackets	The strings of the racket
The dog's collar	The adornments of the collar
Sonia's book on mythology	The pages of the book
The children's toys	The batteries of the toys
Paco's travel brochures	The colour of the travel brochures

As you can see the possessors of the phrases on the left are all animate, that is, living things (people or animals: Paco, dog, friend, children). However, all the possessors of the columns on the right are all inanimate objects, that is non-living things (rackets, collar, book, toys, and travel brochures).



Importante

So, as a general rule, whenever the possessor is a living thing and we express ownership, the relationship is expressed by

Possessor + 's + Thing possessed

Paco + 's + tennis racket

Do you remember how you must add 's to nouns to form Saxon Genitives? If you don't, [click here](#). It's really easy!



Para saber más

- By [clicking here](#) not only will you check the rules to add 's to nouns to form the Saxon Genitive, but you will also practice them.
 - And if you [click here](#) you will improve your knowledge on the Genitive Case in English by doing an easy exercise.
 - In order to know and learn irregular plurals, [click here](#).
-



Reflexiona

Paco is having problems with the use of the apostrophe ('). Sonia explains to him that the apostrophe is used in English to replace "missing" letters, as it happens in short forms (isn't, don't, can't) or even in colloquial English ('cause for because, or 'tis for it is). Watch the video and notice how you must learn how to use the apostrophe correctly to avoid making mistakes.

Learn English with English, baby...



Vídeo de [ebabyenglish](#) alojado en [Youtube](#)



Comprueba lo aprendido

Fill in the gaps with the possessive case of nouns.

Sonia has a book on mythology → This is on mythology.

Our classmates live in this house → This is our .

His parents have bought several rods → There you can find his .

The policemen drive a blue car → This is the .

Andrés has a sister → Peter, let me introduce you to or .



Paco is beginning to understand the use of the Genitive Case in English. However, his sister's mythological book has called his attention and he is having a glance at it. After several minutes, he finds out that there are legends about some of the places he is going to travel to soon, the British Isles. So, he had heard of the Loch Ness Monster, but he didn't know this:



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The **Loch Ness Monster** is a creature believed to live in [Loch Ness](#) in the [Scottish Highlands](#). It is similar to other supposed [lake monsters](#) in Scotland and [elsewhere](#), though its description varies from one account to the next.

Popular interest and belief in the animal has fluctuated since it was brought to the world's attention in 1933. Evidence of its existence is largely anecdotal, with minimal and much disputed photographic material.

The scientific community regards the Loch Ness Monster as a modern-day myth, and explains its sightings as a mix of jokes and [wishful thinking](#). Despite this, it remains one of the most famous examples of [cryptozoology](#). The legendary monster has been affectionately referred to by the diminutive **Nessie** (Scottish Gaelic: *Niseag*) since the 1950s. Whether it is true or not, the suggestion of Nessie's existence makes Loch Ness one of Scotland's top tourist attractions.

After reading this, Paco decides to visit Loch Ness in Scotland when he travels to the British Isles.



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As you have seen in the previous text about Nessie, the Saxon Genitive is not only used with living things (people or animals). In the phrase **Scotland's top tourist attractions**, Scotland isn't obviously a living thing. That means that the Saxon Genitive may also be used with other kinds of possession or associations and some other specific phrases. Let's study them in the following section!

1.1 England's legends!



Actividad de lectura

After [turning over](#) several pages of Sonia's book, Paco reads about one of the best well-known England's legends, King Arthur's legend!



King Arthur is a legendary British leader who, according to medieval histories and romances, led the defence of Britain against the Saxon invaders in the early 6th century. The details of Arthur's story are mainly composed of folklore and literary invention, and his historical existence is debated and disputed by modern historians. [Arthur's name occurs in early poetic sources.](#)

The legendary Arthur developed as a figure of international interest largely through the popularity of [Geoffrey of Monmouth's](#) fanciful and imaginative 12th-century [Historia Regum Britanniae](#) (*History of the Kings of Britain*). However, some [Welsh](#) and [Breton](#) tales and poems relating the story of Arthur date from earlier than this work; in these works, Arthur appears either as a great warrior defending Britain from human and supernatural enemies or as a magical figure of folklore. How much of Geoffrey's *Historia* (completed in 1138) was adapted from such earlier sources, rather than invented by Geoffrey himself, is unknown.

Geoffrey's version of events often served as the starting point for later stories. Geoffrey [depicted](#) Arthur as a king of Britain who defeated the Saxons and established an empire over Britain, Ireland, Iceland, Norway and Gaul. In fact, many elements and incidents that are now





an integral part of the Arthurian story appear in Geoffrey's *Historia*, including Arthur's father Uther Pendragon, the wizard Merlin, the sword Excalibur, and Arthur's birth at Tintagel. The 12th-century French writer Chrétien de Troyes, who added Lancelot and the Holy Grail to the story, began the genre of Arthurian romance that became a significant [strand](#) of medieval literature. In these French stories, the narrative focus often shifts from King Arthur himself to other characters, such as various [Knights of the Round Table](#).

Adapted from [Wikipedia.org](#)

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Notice all the Saxon Genitives in the text.

Arthur's story - Arthur's name - Geoffrey of Monmouth's fanciful and imaginative 12th-century *Historia Regum Britanniae* - Geoffrey's *Historia* - Geoffrey's version of events - Arthur's father - Arthur's birth



Comprueba lo aprendido

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Notice all the Saxon Genitives in the text.

Arthur's story - Arthur's name - Geoffrey of Monmouth's fanciful and imaginative 12th-century *Historia Regum Britanniae* - Geoffrey's *Historia* - Geoffrey's version of events - Arthur's father - Arthur's birth

All the Saxon Genitives previously mentioned are related to a person. However, there are some non-living things with which the Saxon Genitive is also used. Here you are some examples:

Countries	England's legends / Scotland's top tourist attraction
Institutions / Organizations	The European Union's decisions / The Apostrophe Protection Society's website
Places + superlatives	Cáceres' greatest buildings / London's poorest districts
Time references	in four days'/weeks'/months'/years' time // tomorrow's match
Fixed expressions (idioms)	for goodness'/heaven's sake / a stone's throw
Well-known places (shops, stores, churches, cathedrals, friends' homes, etc.*	at the grocer's, St Patrick's, I met her at Paco's

* As you can see, in those well-known places the second noun is frequently omitted.



Comprueba lo aprendido

Read the text again and say if the following sentences are true or false.

King Arthur's men were Saxons.

Verdadero Falso

Falso

King Arthur is a legendary British leader who led the defence of Britain [against](#) the Saxon invaders in the early 6th century.

Several Welsh stories were written before Geoffrey of Monmouth's book.

Verdadero Falso

Verdadero

Some Welsh and Breton tales and poems relating the story of Arthur date from earlier than this work.

Lancelot's story was included in King Arthur's legend by 1138.

Verdadero Falso

Falso

The 12th-century French writer Chrétien de Troyes, who added Lancelot and the Holy Grail to the story, began the genre of Arthurian romance.

Excalibur was King Arthur's wife.

Verdadero Falso

Falso

The sword Excalibur.

Once you have studied the form and use of the Saxon Genitive, in the following section we'll have a quick look at some examples we usually have problems with.

1.2 Sonia's and Paco's books are different



Reflexiona

Here you are a summary of Sonia's explanation:

Andrés's, Paco's and Alex's friends go out on Saturdays	Some friends are Andrés's, others are Paco's, and others are Alex's.
Andrés, Paco and Alex's friends go out on Saturdays	Andrés, Paco and Alex have the same friends

Here you are a summary of Sonia's explanation:

Andrés's, Paco's and Alex's friends go out on Saturdays	Some friends are Andrés's, others are Paco's, and others are Alex's.
Andrés, Paco and Alex's friends go out on Saturdays	Andrés, Paco and Alex have the same friends



Decide which of the following sentences is correct.

1. Several of these tennis balls belong to Andrés. Others are Paco's.

- There you'll find Andrés's and Paco's tennis balls.
- There you'll find Andrés and Paco's tennis balls.

That's it! Some tennis balls belong to Andrés and some others to Paco.

Incorrect! Some tennis balls belong to Andrés and some others to Paco.

Solución

- 1. Opción correcta
- 2. Incorrecto

2. Yesterday, Sonia bought *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and put it on Paco's shelf.

- Sonia's and Paco's books are on that shelf.
- Sonia and Paco's books are on that shelf.

That's it! All the books are on the same shelf, but some belong to Sonia and others to Paco.

Incorrect! All the books are on the same shelf, but some belong to Sonia and others to Paco.

Solución

1. Opción correcta
2. Incorrecto

3. "Our parents are leaving for Madrid next weekend", said Sonia.

- Sonia's and Paco's parents are leaving for Madrid next weekend.
- Sonia and Paco's parents are leaving for Madrid next weekend.

Incorrect! Sonia and Paco are brothers, so they have the same parents.

That's it! Sonia and Paco are brothers, so they have the same parents.

Solución

1. Incorrecto
2. Opción correcta



Ejercicio Resuelto

The apostrophe (') in the Saxon Genitive is quite frequently misused. Read the following signs and posters carefully.

1.

2.

3.



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4.



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6.



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What is wrong with the apostrophes?

Picture 1: Cheques must be supported by a banker's card (Singular possessor: a banker + 's).

Picture 2: America's Favorite New Classic (Singular possessor: America + 's, no plural).

Picture 3: No under 18s (apostrophe wrongly added).

Picture 4: Kids' upstairs (it must refer to a plural: kids + ').

Picture 5: No dogs allowed (it is plural, no Saxon Genitive, so apostrophe wrongly added).

Picture 6: Brand New Childrens' Books (Saxon Genitive of irregular plural: children + 's)



Para saber más

Saxon Genitive vs. Norman Genitive

As you can see, the apostrophe is quite often misused, so try to learn to use it correctly.

- Practise it by [clicking here](#).

Up to now, we have talked about the **Saxon Genitive** or the **Genitive Case**. They are not the same. The Genitive Case is used to express far more relationships than that of possession. For example, the phrase **a glass of milk** is genitive, but it is not Saxon Genitive, since the milk does not possess the glass. The Saxon Genitive derives its name from the Anglo-Saxon, since in Old English, the genitive was formed by adding **-es** to the noun. As we now know, in modern English **'s** is added.

Nevertheless, it is not the only way we have to refer to possessions or relationships. We also have, as you guessed at the beginning of the topic, the well-known **of-construction** or **Norman Genitive**, and this is what we will study in the last section of the topic.

2. It's mine (possessive pronouns)



Reflexiona

Do you remember the phrases at the beginning of the topic?

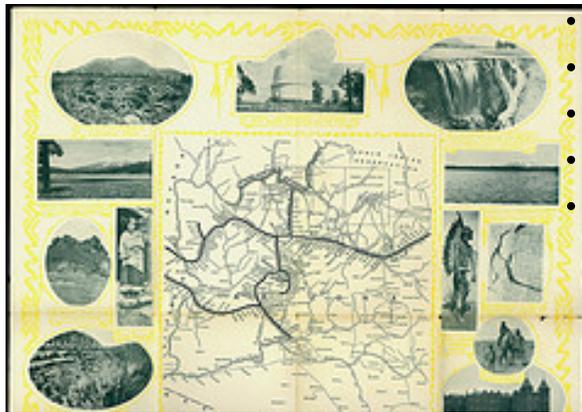


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- The strings of the racket
- The adornments of the collar
- The pages of the book
- The batteries of the toys
- The colour of the travel brochures

Can you see anything interesting in them?



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All of them use the of-construction. When we want to express a possession or origin relationship and the possessor is not a person or animal, the general rule is to form the possession by means of a construction like the ones above.

Todos llevan la construcción of (de). Si el poseedor no es persona o animal, se usa esta forma.



Importante

Remember that the **of-construction** or the **Norman Genitive** is formed in the following way:

thing possessed	+	of	+ possessor (thing)
The colour		of	the travel brochures



Para saber más

- If you need to read more about the Saxon Genitive and the of-construction, [click here](#). Don't forget to practise by doing the exercise at the end of the page.
 - If you want to do more exercises before facing the Self-Assessment exercise below, [click here](#).
 - Finally, [click here](#) if you feel like doing one more exercise on the Genitive Case.
-



Comprueba lo aprendido

Fill in the blanks by means of a Genitive Case. Pay attention to possessors and articles in front of proper nouns!!! Remember that before proper nouns the definite article **the** is not normally used except to refer to a whole family, e.g. **The Simpsons**. So, we can say **The Simpsons'car** if we mean that the car belongs to the whole family.

The lottery prize of Paco -

The legendary books of Sonia -

The car keys - The

The books of a person - A

That book has bright colours - The are bright



Curiosidad

~~A friend of me~~



Typical mistake: There is a typical mistake students make. It occurs when we refer to one or more friends among my/your/his friends. It is common to use the noun phrase **A friend of me**, or **Some friends of him**. These phrases are **completely wrong**. We need the double genitive with a possessive pronoun, so, we must say **A friend of mine** (that is, A friend of my friends), or **Some friends of his** (that is, Some friends of his friends).

In this topic, Paco has learnt a lot about the Genitive Case and probably he won't have more problems with it. Besides, he has decided to visit some "legendary" places in the United Kingdom, the first stop in his travel around the world. We really hope you

have learnt as much as him!



Para saber más

That's **his** and this is **mine**.

The words in bold are examples of possessive pronouns.

Let's [practise](#).

3. The legends of Sonia's book are fantastic



Ejercicio Resuelto

After reading some legends in Sonia's book, Paco is having a look at his travel brochures and he finds out the following passage about one of the most famous sites in the world: **Stonehenge**. Undoubtedly, he will visit it when he travels to the United Kingdom. **Read the passage.**



Stonehenge is a prehistoric monument located in the English county of Wiltshire, about 3.2 kilometres (2.0 miles) west of Amesbury and 13 kilometres (8.1 miles) north of Salisbury. Stonehenge is composed of [earthworks](#) surrounding a circular setting of large standing stones. Archaeologists had believed that the iconic stone monument was erected around 2500 BC. However one recent theory has suggested that the first stones were not erected until 2400-2200 BC, [whilst](#) another suggests that bluestones may have been erected at the site as early as 3000 BC. The surrounding circular earth bank and [ditch](#), which constitute the earliest phase of the monument, have been dated to about 3100 BC. The site and its surroundings were added to the [UNESCO's](#) list of World Heritage Sites in 1986. Stonehenge itself is owned by the Crown and managed by English Heritage.

New archaeological evidence found by the [Stonehenge Riverside Project](#) indicates that Stonehenge served as a [burial](#) ground from its earliest beginnings. The dating of cremated remains found that burials took place as early as 3000 BC, when the first ditches were being built around the monument. Burials continued at Stonehenge for at least another 500 years when the giant stones which mark the landmark were put up. According to Professor Mike Parker Pearson, head of Stonehenge Riverside Project

"Stonehenge was a place of burial from its beginning to its [zenith](#) in the mid third millennium B.C. The cremation burial dating to Stonehenge's sarsen stones phase is likely just one of many from this later period of the monument's use and demonstrates that it was still very much a domain of the dead."

In the passage, there are several Genitive Cases. Remember that the Genitive Case can be either a **Saxon Genitive** (Paco's sister) or an **of-construction** or **Norman Genitive** (the colours of the brochures) and that they are mainly used to express possession or origin.

Let's recognise some of the phrases in the Genitive Case which are included in the text.

Saxon Genitive ('s)	of-construction
UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites	the English county of Wiltshire
Stonehenge's sarsen stones phase	the earliest phase of the monument
the monument's use	The dating of cremated remains
a domain of the dead	

As you can see, the Saxon Genitive has been formed by adding 's to the possessor, whereas the Norman Genitive is formed following the structure **thing possessed + of + possessor**. Moreover, you must remember that the Saxon Genitive is mainly used when the possessors are living things (people or animals). However, it can also be used when we refer to possessors that are **countries** (England's legends), **institutions / organizations** (UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites), **places + superlatives** (Cáceres' greatest buildings), **time references** (in two years' time), **fixed expressions** (a stone's throw), **well-known places such as shops, churches or friends' homes** (Stonehenge's sarsen stones phase or I met her at St Patrick's [cathedral]).

Now, it's time to practise. **Write the Saxon Genitive of the following phrases.** If you doubt how to add 's to the possessor, [click here](#) >> [Documento de descarga](#) to remember it.

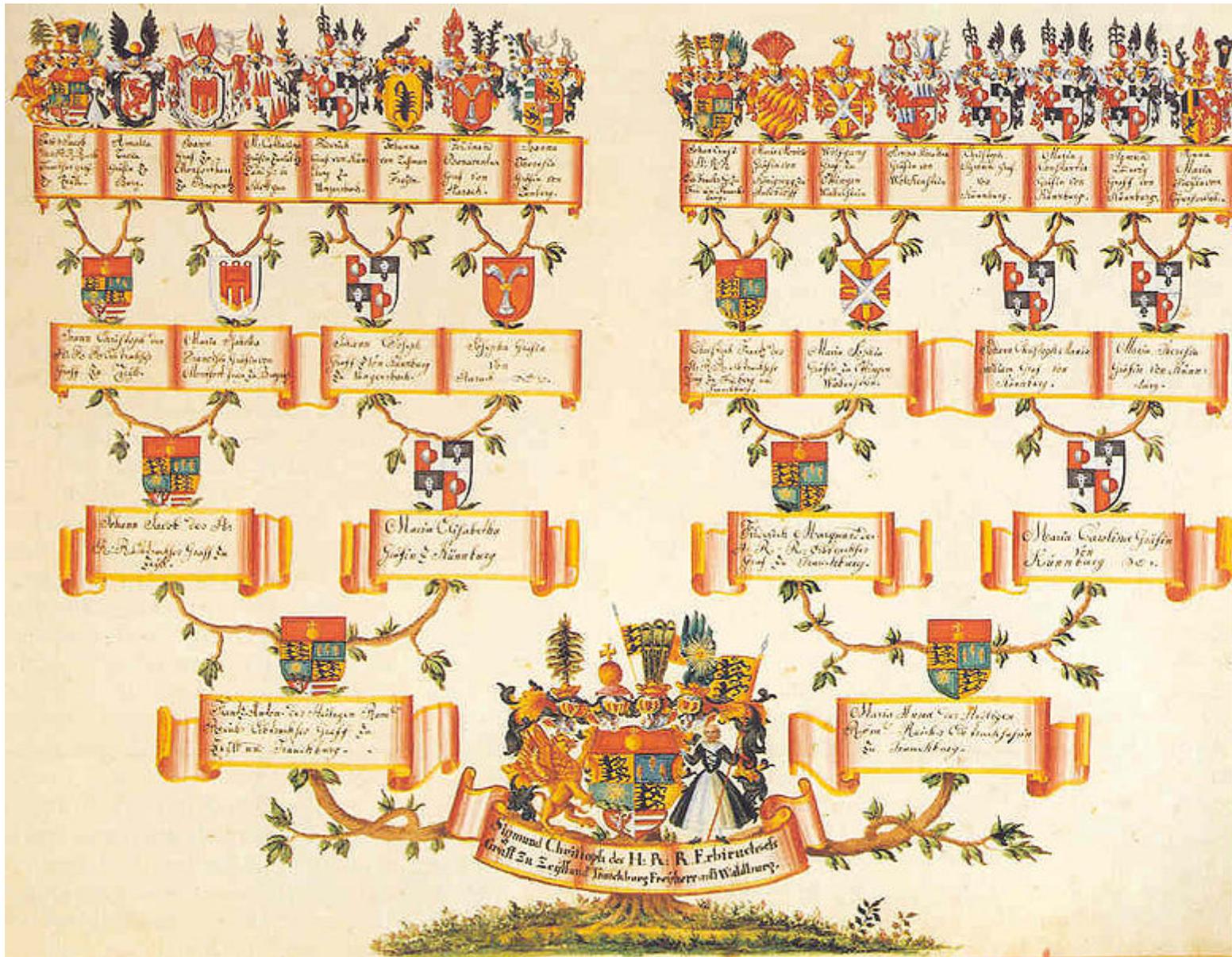


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of-construction	Saxon Genitive
The sister of Paco	
The car of Andrés	

The poorest districts of London	
The top tourist attractions of the British Isles	
The father of Sonia and Paco	
The books of Paco and the books of Sonia	

The Saxon Genitive of the previous phrases would be the following ones:

Paco's sister	Remember that in front of proper nouns we don't normally use the definite article the .
Andrés' car or Andres's car	Remember that proper nouns ending in -s may take just the ' or 's.
London's poorest districts	Place (London) + superlative (poorest).
The British Isles' top tourist attractions	Remember that regular plural nouns (Isles) just add ' to form the Saxon Genitive.
Paco and Sonia's father	When there are several possessors and the things possessed belong to all of them, 's is added to the last one.
Paco's and Sonia's books	When there are several possessors and some of the things possessed belong to a possessor and some othes to another possessor, 's is added to each possessor.

On the other hand, when possessors are non-living things, we normally use the of-construction or Norman Genitive. In the following phrases, say which ones you would say with the Saxon Genitive and which with the of-construction.

the manager /office	Saxon Genitive (the manager's office)
the door / room	Of-construction (the door of the room)

my friends / party	Saxon Genitive (my friends' party)
the lamps / sitting room	Of-construction (the lamps of the sitting room)
the team / equipment	Saxon Genitive (the team's equipment)

Quite frequently the apostrophe (') is misused and English people get really angry whenever this happens. Have a look at the following sentences and study [whether](#) the apostrophe is correctly used or not.

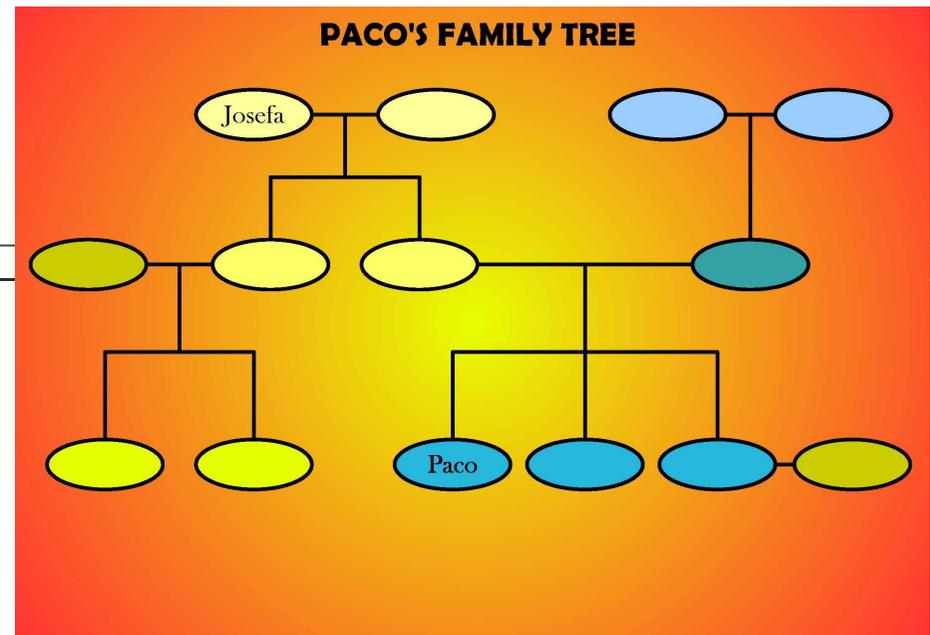
Paco's mother's Spanish	Correct	Paco's mother is Spanish
Does Paco know where Stonehenge's is?	Incorrect	Does Paco know where Stonehenge is?
The boys' tickets are in their cupboard	Correct	
The boys' father is talking to him	Incorrect	The boy's father is talking to him
That's not mine. That's Simon's	Correct	Double genitive
London is England's largest city	Correct	
I really like the colour of the travel brochures of Paco	Incorrect	I really like the colour of Paco's travel brochures
Paco's sister thinks its not a good idea	Incorrect	Paco's sister thinks it's not a good idea

In the last sentence, the Saxon Genitive, Paco's sister, is used to express the relationship between Paco and his sister, it doesn't literally mean that Paco possesses her sister, Sonia. So, as you should have noticed, the Saxon Genitive is very frequently used to talk about family relationships. **Draw a family tree of Paco's family after the following information:**

- Sonia is Paco's sister.
- Francisco is Paco, Sonia and Alex's father.
- Francisco's wife is Isabel.
- Alex's girlfriend is called Susan.
- Isabel's parents are Javier and Marta. They are Paco's grandparents.
- Sonia's grandparents are also Josefa and José. They have another daughter apart from Francisco, her name is Lucía. Lucía is Alex, Sonia and Paco's aunt.

- Lucía is married with Antonio. Antonio is Alex's uncle. They have two children, Jesús and Alfredo. They are Paco, Alex and Sonia's cousins.

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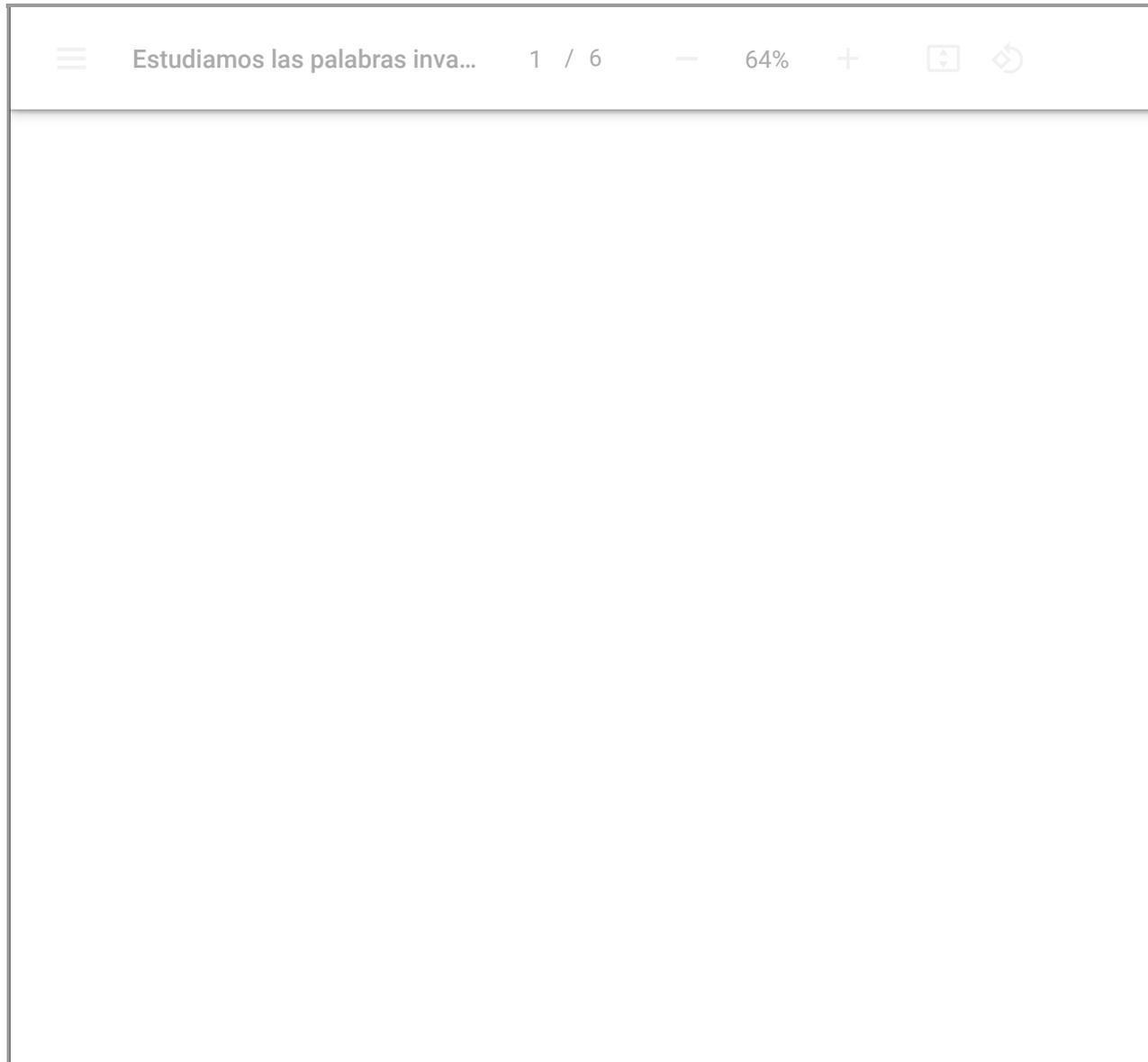


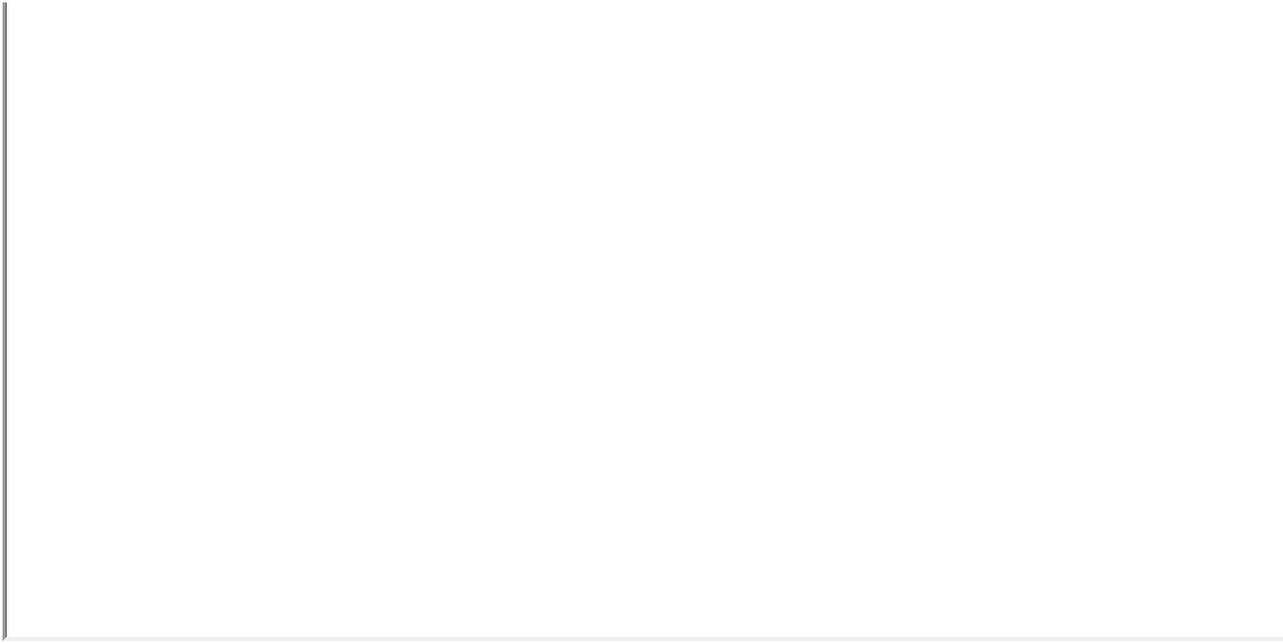
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Elaboración propia

Resumen

Descarga [aquí](#) el resumen del tema





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