

Your and you're are among the pairs of homophones even many English native speakers often confuse. Today, we will identify the differences and uses of your and you're

The word your is the possessive form of the pronoun you and is used as a second-person possessive adjective meaning "of or relating to you or yourself or yourselves especially as possessor or possessors." Since it is a possessive adjective, it is always followed by a noun or a gerund, which belongs to or are associated with you.

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On the other hand, the term you're is simply a contraction of the words you and are with an apostrophe in the middle representing the missing letter "a". Other examples of contractions are wouldn't for would not, aren't for are not, and can't for cannot.

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There are two ways to check whether you are using the correct word in your sentence. First, if you are using the term your, there should be a noun or a gerund after it. If there is none, then it probably isn't the right word to use. Second, if you are using you're in your sentence, you can try to substitute you're with you are and see if it still makes sense. If not, then you should probably use the term your.

Example 1:

Incorrect: **Your** the best friend I have ever had.

You actually want to say "you are", therefore:

Correct: **You're** the best friend I have ever had.

Example 2:

Incorrect: I can't believe **you're** entry has been disqualified.

Whose entry has been disqualified?

Correct: I can't believe **your** entry has been disqualified.