# Understanding Your and You’re

**By the end of this lesson you should be able to:**

* Distinguish between *your* and you’re
* Use each of these words in their proper contexts

**Introduction**

It is common for people to mix up the words *your* and *you’re.* This is because they are pronounced exactly the same, but when spelt differently have two different meanings! If you use the wrong spelling, the meaning of your sentence can be changed completely. This lesson plan, therefore, briefly outlines the two differences between the two words.

**LESSON PLAN**

**Your** shows possession

Example 1: *Please open your book.*

In the above example the book belongs to you; therefore, it is YOUR book.

Example 2: *What are your thoughts on humanitarian intervention?*

In the above example, you have the thoughts; therefore, they are YOUR thoughts.

**You’re** is a shortened form of “you are”. The apostrophe shows the omission of ‘a’ to join the two words.

Example 1: *You’re required to hand in every tutorial assignment.*

Without the contraction, the above example would read: You are required to hand in every tutorial assignment.

Activity

**Circle the correct word in order for the sentence to make sense**.

Example: Your/You’re good marks show that your/you’re listening in class.

1. Substantiate your/you’re answer with examples from the text.
2. Your/You’re essay is on Locke’s idea of legitimacy. Make sure your/you’re views challenge or agree with his.
3. Your/You’re required to attend a make-up tutorial this week; it’s your/you’re choice which one you attend.