

Basic Rules:

- Clothes must take a Pronominal to indicate *whose* clothes you're talking about (i.e., "possession").
- Clothing words take Set B Pronominals to indicate specific possession.
- Clothing words are pluralized using the Unreal Distributive Prefix /di²²(?)/.
- Nonsingular Set B Pronominals (without a Pluralizer prefix) indicate a *singular* item of clothing owned by *all the people contained in the Pronominal*.
 - u²²na²²hnu²wo² *Their shirt.* A single shirt owned by all of "them." They all *share* it. †
 - ju²²na²²hnu²wo² *Their shirts.* Multiple shirts, each shirt owned separately by each of "them."
- To indicate an "unpossessed" item of clothing, use a Singular 3rd Person Set A Pronominal—either /a²/ or /g/.
 - u²²hnu²wo² *His/her shirt.*
 - a²²hnu²wo² *A shirt.*
 - di²²hnu²wo² *Shirts.*

Shirt, Clothing (Generally)

- | | |
|---|---|
| - a ²² gwa ²² hnu ² wo ² | / -a ²² hnu ² wo ² / |
| ○ di ²² gwa ²² hnu ² wo ² | <i>My shirt.</i> |
| - ja ²² hnu ² wo ² | <i>My shirts.</i> |
| ○ di ²² ja ²² hnu ² wo ² | <i>Your shirt.</i> |
| - u ²² hnu ² wo ² | <i>Your shirts.</i> |
| ○ ju ²² hnu ² wo ² | <i>His/her shirt.</i> |
| - a ²² hnu ² wo ² | <i>His/her shirts.</i> |
| ○ di ²² hnu ² wo ² | <i>A shirt.</i> |
| | <i>Shirts.</i> |

A Pair of Pants

- | | |
|---|---|
| - a ²² gwa ¹¹ su ²³ lo ² | / -a ¹¹ su ²³ lo ³ / |
| ○ di ²² gwa ¹¹ su ²³ lo ² | <i>My [pair of] pants.</i> |
| - ja ¹¹ su ²³ lo ² | <i>My [multiple pairs of] pants.</i> |
| ○ di ²² ja ¹¹ su ²³ lo ² | <i>Your [pair of] pants.</i> |
| - u ²² su ²³ lo ² | <i>Your [multiple pairs of] pants.</i> |
| ○ ju ²² su ²³ lo ² | <i>His/her [pair of] pants.</i> |
| - a ²² su ²³ lo ² | <i>His/her [multiple pairs of] pants.</i> |
| ○ di ²² su ²² lo ² | <i>A pair of pants.</i> |
| | <i>[Multiple] pairs of pants.</i> |

† Of course, this kind of thing is uncommon. How many people do you know who share a shirt, or a pair of shoes? So, you won't be talking about *shared* items of clothing too often. Nonsingular Pronominals on clothing words will *almost always* need to be pluralized with /di²²(?)/ in normal speech. **So remember this rule of thumb: Nonsingular Pronominals on clothing words almost always need to be pluralized with /di²²(?)/.**

Vocabulary
Clothes I

Sock

- a²²gwa²²li²³yo²
 - di²²gwa²³li²³yo²
- ja²²li²³yo²
 - di²²ja²²li²³yo²
- u²²li²³yo²
 - ju²²li²³yo²
- a²²li²³yo²
 - di²²li²³yo²

/ -a²²li²³yo³ /

My sock.
My socks.
Your sock.
Your socks.
His/her sock.
His/her socks.
A sock.
Socks.

Shoe

- a²²gwa²la¹¹su²³lo²
 - di²²gwa²la¹¹su²³lo²
- ja²la¹¹su²³lo²
 - di²²ja²la¹¹su²³lo²
- u²²la¹¹su²³lo²
 - ju²²la¹¹su²³lo²
- a²la¹¹su²³lo²
 - di²²la¹¹su²³lo²

/ -a²la¹¹su²³lo³ /

My shoe.
My shoes.
Your shoe.
Your shoes.
His/her shoe.
His/her shoes.
A shoe.
Shoes.

Dress

- a²²gwa¹¹sa²no³
 - di²²gwa¹¹sa²no³
- ja¹¹sa²no³
 - di²²ja¹¹sa²no³
- u¹¹sa²no³
 - ju¹¹sa²no³
- a¹¹sa²no³
 - di¹¹sa²no³

/ -a¹¹sa²no³ /

My dress.
My dresses.
Your dress.
Your dresses.
His/her dress.
His/her dresses.
A dress.
Dresses.

Vocabulary

Clothes I

Cap [†]

/ -a²²li⁰sdu²²lo² /

- a²²gwa²li⁰sdu²²lo² My cap.
 - di²²gwa²li⁰sdu²²lo² My caps.
- ja²²li⁰sdu²²lo² Your cap.
 - di²²ja²²li⁰sdu²²lo² Your caps.
- u²²li⁰sdu²²lo² His/her cap.
 - ju²²li⁰sdu²²lo² His/her caps.
- a²²li⁰sdu²²lo² A cap.
 - di²²li⁰sdu²²lo² Caps.

Glasses

/ -a²ga⁰ti²²nv⁴⁴d(i²) /

- di²²gwa²ga⁰ti²²nv⁴⁴d My [single] pair of glasses.
 - di²²ga⁰ti²²nv⁴⁴d di²²gwa²je²²li⁴(⁴?i²) My [multiple] pairs of glasses. [‡]
- di²²ja²ga⁰ti²²nv⁴⁴d Your [single] pair of glasses.
 - di²²ga⁰ti²²nv⁴⁴d di²²ja²je²²li⁴ Your [multiple] pairs of glasses.
- ju²²ga⁰ti²²nv⁴⁴d His/her [single] pair of glasses.
 - di²²ga⁰ti²²nv⁴⁴d ju²²je²²li⁴ His/her [multiple] pairs of glasses.
- di²²ga⁰ti²²nv⁴⁴d A single pair of glasses. (or) Multiple pairs of glasses.

[†] This word is translated as “cap” in the CED. The literal meaning is “a scalp covering,” and it is used to refer to any “hat” or head covering that lacks a full brim—i.e., a brim that goes *all the way around* the head. So baseball hats, “sock hats,” yarmulkes, and so on, but *not* cowboy hats, fedoras, or the kind of hats you see at Stomp (which are called *dilsgwetuwō*). Most “hats” you see day-to-day are covered by this word.

[‡] This noun is already inflected with plurality in reference to the eyes, the literal meaning being something like “for the eyes to go through.” This makes it difficult to pluralize the noun *as a whole* (i.e., indicate *multiple pairs* of glasses) by directly inflecting it further. The easiest way around this problem is to use the singular form of the noun, and *then* use the auxiliary word for possession to carry the pluralizer *and* the possessive Set B Pronoun. *Digitinvdi digwajeli*. “Glasses I own *them*.” This isn’t as complicated as it might sound—we have the *exact* same problem with our English word. “Glasses” can refer to either *one* pair or *multiple* pairs of glasses. Because the *name* of the thing is inherently plural, we usually have to rely on context to clarify whether we mean a singular or plural meaning. If we really need to clarify a plural usage, we have to say something awkward like “my *pairs of glasses*.” This is more or less the same kind of thing that’s happening in this Cherokee example.

Vocabulary

Clothes I

Belt

/ -a²da¹¹dlo²³sd(i²) /

- a²²gwa²da¹¹dlo²³sd *My belt.*
 - di²²gwa²da¹¹dlo²³sd *My belts.*
- ja²da¹¹dlo²³sd *Your belt.*
 - di²²ja²da¹¹dlo²³sd *Your belts.*
- u²²da¹¹dlo²³sd *His/her belt.*
 - ju²²da¹¹dlo²³sd *His/her belts.*
- a²da¹¹dlo²³sd *A belt.*
 - di²²da¹¹dlo²³sd *Belts.*

By: J.R. Lancaster, a second language learner. May contain mistakes.