

The Clitic

A clitic is a word that is grammatically independent, but phonologically dependent, has no stress and is adjacent to another word (words) and is pronounced together with it.

Some forms of clitics:

- **shortened verb forms**:
 - *I'm* [aɪm], *you'll* [ju:l], *they've* [ðeɪv] and others.
- the **article** usually merges with the word it defines:
 - *an egg* [æ'neg], *the house* [ðə'haus]
- the letter *s* in the formation of the **possessive case** is a clitic, not an **affix**, since it can mark not only one **noun**, but also a **nominal group of words** or several nouns combined, for example, with the conjunction '*and*':
 - *the Queen of England's crown*
 - *Sue and Tom's car*

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Last update: **25.08.2023 07:26**

