



3.4



Possessive adjectives and pronouns

- Possessive adjectives (**adjetivos posesivos**) are used to express ownership or possession. Unlike English, Spanish has two types of possessive adjectives: the short, or unstressed, forms and the long, or stressed, forms. Both forms agree in gender, when applicable, and number with the object owned, and not with the owner.

Possessive adjectives			
short forms (unstressed)		long forms (stressed)	
mi(s)	my	mío/a(s)	my/(of) mine
tu(s)	your	tuyo/a(s)	your/(of) yours
su(s)	your; his; her; its	suyo/a(s)	your/(of) yours; his/(of) his; her/ (of) hers; its/(of) its
nuestro(s)/a(s)	our	nuestro/a(s)	our/(of) ours
vuestro(s)/a(s)	your	vuestro/a(s)	your/(of) yours
su(s)	your; their	suyo/a(s)	your/(of) yours; their/(of) theirs

- Short possessive adjectives precede the nouns they modify.

En **mi** opinión, esa telenovela es pésima.
In my opinion, that soap opera is awful.

Nuestras revistas favoritas son *Vanidades y Latina*.
Our favorite magazines are Vanidades and Latina.

- Stressed possessive adjectives follow the nouns they modify. They are used for emphasis or to express the phrases *of mine*, *of yours*, etc. The nouns are usually preceded by a definite or indefinite article.

mi amigo → **un** amigo **mío** tus amigas → **las** amigas **tuyas**
my friend → a friend of mine *your friends → friends of yours*

- Because **su(s)** and **suyo(s)/a(s)** have multiple meanings (*your, his, her, its, their*), the construction [article] + [noun] + **de** + [subject pronoun] can be used to clarify meaning.

su casa la casa suya		la casa de él/ella	his/her house
		la casa de usted/ustedes	your house
		la casa de ellos/ellas	their house

- Possessive pronouns (**pronombres posesivos**) have the same forms as stressed possessive adjectives and are preceded by a definite article. Possessive pronouns agree in gender and number with the nouns they replace.

No encuentro **mi libro**.
¿Me prestas **el tuyo**?
I can't find my book.
Can I borrow yours?

Si la **fotógrafa** **suya** no llega,
la nuestra está disponible.
If your photographer doesn't arrive,
ours is available.

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After the verb **ser**, stressed possessives are usually used without articles.

¿Es **tuya** la calculadora?
Is the calculator yours?

No, no es mía.
No, it is not mine.

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The neuter form **lo** + [singular stressed possessive] is used to refer to abstract ideas or concepts such as *what is mine* and *what belongs to you*.

Quiero lo mío.
I want what is mine.