

3.2

Possessive adjectives



ANTE TODO

Possessive adjectives, like descriptive adjectives, are words that are used to qualify people, places, or things. Possessive adjectives express the quality of ownership or possession.

Forms of possessive adjectives

SINGULAR FORMS	PLURAL FORMS	
mi	mis	<i>my</i>
tu	tus	<i>your (fam.)</i>
su	sus	<i>his, her, its, your (form.)</i>
nuestro/a	nuestros/as	<i>our</i>
vuestro/a	vuestros/as	<i>your (fam.)</i>
su	sus	<i>their, your</i>

COMPARE & CONTRAST

In English, possessive adjectives are invariable; that is, they do not agree in gender and number with the nouns they modify. Spanish possessive adjectives, however, do agree in number with the nouns they modify.

<i>my cousin</i>	<i>my cousins</i>	<i>my aunt</i>	<i>my aunts</i>
mi primo	mis primos	mi tía	mis tías

The forms **nuestro** and **vuestro** agree in both gender and number with the nouns they modify.

nuestro primo	nuestros primos	nuestra tía	nuestras tías
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- ▶ Possessive adjectives are always placed before the nouns they modify.

—¿Está tu novio aquí? <i>Is your boyfriend here?</i>	—No, mi novio está en la biblioteca. <i>No, my boyfriend is in the library.</i>
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- ▶ Because **su** and **sus** have multiple meanings (*your, his, her, their, its*), you can avoid confusion by using this construction instead: [article] + [noun] + **de** + [subject pronoun].

sus parientes	▶	los parientes de él/ella	<i>his/her relatives</i>
		los parientes de Ud./Uds.	<i>your relatives</i>
		los parientes de ellos/ellas	<i>their relatives</i>

AYUDA

Look at the context, focusing on nouns and pronouns, to help you determine the meaning of **su(s)**.

¡INTÉNTALO!

Provide the appropriate form of each possessive adjective.

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| 1. Es <u>mi</u> (<i>my</i>) libro. | 1. <u>Sus</u> (<i>Her</i>) primos son franceses. |
| 2. _____ (<i>My</i>) familia es ecuatoriana. | 2. _____ (<i>Our</i>) primos son canadienses. |
| 3. _____ (<i>Your, fam.</i>) esposo es italiano. | 3. Son _____ (<i>their</i>) lápices. |
| 4. _____ (<i>Our</i>) profesor es español. | 4. _____ (<i>Their</i>) nietos son japoneses. |
| 5. Es _____ (<i>her</i>) reloj. | 5. Son _____ (<i>our</i>) plumas. |
| 6. Es _____ (<i>your, fam.</i>) mochila. | 6. Son _____ (<i>my</i>) papeles. |
| 7. Es _____ (<i>your, form.</i>) maleta. | 7. _____ (<i>My</i>) amigas son inglesas. |
| 8. _____ (<i>Their</i>) sobrina es alemana. | 8. Son _____ (<i>his</i>) cuadernos. |

recursos

