

### Unit 3: La familia

Learn how to talk about your family, describe people and express ownership

## Quiz Vocabulary Unit 3 1

- La madre de mi madre es\_\_\_\_\_
- El hijo de mi hijo es\_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ El hijo de mi tío es\_\_\_\_\_
- La esposa de mi hijo\_\_\_\_\_
- El hijo de mi madre, pero no de mi padre\_\_\_\_\_
- Apellido:
- Parientes:
- Cuñada:
- Suegro:
- Bisabuelo:

### Grammar: Page 93 Possessive adjectives

Singular	Plural	English
mi	mis	my
tu	tus	Your (familiar)
su	sus	His/her, its, your(form.)
Nuestro/a	Nuestros/as	our
Vuestro/a	Vuestros/as	Your (you all)
su	sus	Their, your (you all)

# What IS a possessive adjective?

In English, we use possessive adjectives all the time, though we probably haven't always known that they had a name. Examples of English possessive adjectives are:

My, your, his, her, our, and their

### Can't we just memorize them in Spanish?

Yes and No.

As with all adjectives in Spanish, possessive adjectives MUST AGREE WITH THE NOUNS THEY MODIFY IN BOTH NUMBER AND GENDER!

This means that the possessive adjective you use will depend on the gender and the number of the noun that comes after it.



## Where do we begin?

Let's start with the possessive adjective for "my"

In Spanish it is either mi or mis

The gender of the noun has no effect on the possessive adjective in this case, only the number.



## Can I get an example?

Here we go:

```
While you would say

"Mi lapiz" for "my pencil"

you would say

"mis libros" for "my books"

because the noun is plural in the second example.
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## What about "your"

It works the same way as "my," except spelled slightly different:

```
"your" is:

tu or tus

"tu zapato"

"tus bolígrafos"
```



#### His and her?

Again, only the number makes a difference here. And, his and her is the same, regardless of whether it is a boy or a girl in possession of the object.

For his/her:

su or sus

"su cuaderno"

"sus puertas"

### Finally, a more complicated possessive adjective

"our" has four different translations in Spanish. They are:

nuestro nuestra

nuestros nuestras

As you can see, the adjective you use will depend on whether the noun that follows is masculine or feminine, singular or plural.

#### Looks like this:

- "nuestro libro"
- "nuestra lámpara"
- "nuestros cuartos"
- "nuestras granjas"

A basic rule of thumb on this is that if the noun ends in o/a/os/as, then so does the possessive adjective. This doesn't ALWAYS work, but it will most of the time.

## Finally...the last one

"Their" is written exactly like "his/her"

su or sus

"their dog" is "su perro"

"their cats" is "sus gatos"

### A warning

Many people make the mistake of thinking that the owner of the object makes the difference in the number of the possessive adjective. For example, people think that "their book" is "sus libro" because "they" is plural. Remember, it is the noun that follows the adjective that determines the plurality/singularity of the adjective.

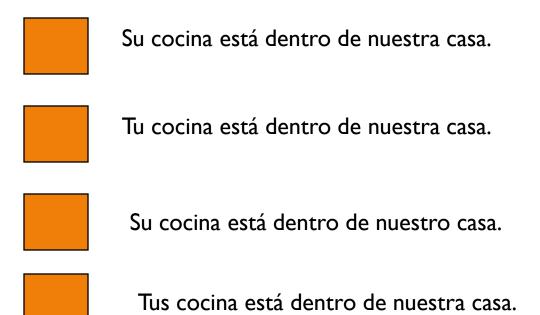
## Shall we give it a try?

Please use the following questions as a self-test to make sure you understand the concept of possessive adjectives

Let's give it a shot

#### Click the button next to the correct translation:

"Your kitchen is inside of our house."



### Bogus

You might want to go back to the beginning and give the tutorial another look.

**Beginning** 

Back to question





## Oh brother!

You might want to go back to the beginning and give the tutorial another look.

**Beginning** 

Back to question



#### D'Oh!

You might want to go back to the beginning and give the tutorial another look.

**Beginning** 

Back to question



#### Nice!

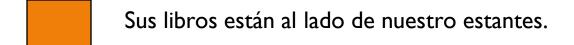
Exactly right. You're ready to go on to the next question.

Go On



#### Next one:

#### Their books are next to our bookcases.



Su libros están al lado de nuestros estantes.

Sus libros están al lado de nuestras estantes.

Sus libros están al lado de nuestros estantes.

### Bogus

You might want to go back to the beginning and give the tutorial another look.

**Beginning** 

Back to question





#### D'Oh!

You might want to go back to the beginning and give the tutorial another look.

**Beginning** 

Back to question



## Oh brother!

You might want to go back to the beginning and give the tutorial another look.

**Beginning** 

Back to question



#### Nice!

Exactly right. You're ready to tackle possessive adjectives

Go On



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

#### **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.

my cousinmy cousinsmy auntmy auntsmi primomis primosmi tíamis 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

Possessive adjectives are always placed before the nouns they modify.

—¿Está **tu novio** aquí? *Is your boyfriend here?* 

—No, **mi novio** está en la biblioteca. *No, my boyfriend is in the library.* 

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** los parientes **de Ud./Uds.** los parientes **de ellos/ellas** 

his/her relatives
your relatives
their relatives



Provide the appropriate form of each possessive adjective. The first item in each column has been done for you.

- 1. Es <u>mi</u> (*my*) libro.
- 3. \_\_\_\_(Your, fam.) esposo es italiano.
- 4. \_\_\_\_(Our) profesor es español.
- 5. Es \_\_\_\_ (*her*) reloj.
- 6. Es \_\_\_\_\_ (*your*, fam.) mochila.
- 7. Es \_\_\_\_\_ (*your*, form.) maleta.
- 8. \_\_\_\_(Their) sobrina es alemana. 8. Son \_\_\_\_ (his) cuadernos.

- 1. Sus (Her) primos son franceses.
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_(My) familia es ecuatoriana. 2. \_\_\_\_(Our) primos son canadienses.
  - 3. Son \_\_\_\_\_ (*their*) lápices.
    - 4. \_\_\_\_(*Their*) nietos son japoneses.
    - 5. Son \_\_\_\_ (*our*) plumas.
    - 6. Son \_\_\_\_\_ (*my*) papeles.
  - 7. \_\_\_\_(*My*) amigas son inglesas.