



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.



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.”



Su cocina está dentro de nuestra casa.



Tu cocina está dentro de nuestra casa.



Su cocina está dentro de nuestro casa.



Tus cocina está dentro de nuestra casa.



Bogus

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

Beginning

Back to question

End of show



Oh brother!

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

Beginning

Back to question

End of show



D'Oh!

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

Beginning

Back to question

End of show



Nice!

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

Go On



Next one:

Their books are next to our bookcases.



Sus libros están al lado de nuestro estantes.



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

End of show



D'Oh!

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

[Beginning](#)

Back [to](#) question

End of show



Oh brother!

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

Beginning

Back to question

End of show



Nice!

Exactly right. You're ready to tackle possessive adjectives

Go On



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

mi**tu****su****nuestro/a****vuestro/a****su**

PLURAL FORMS

mis**tus****sus****nuestros/as****vuestros/as****sus***my**your* (fam.)*his, her, its, your* (form.)*our**your* (fam.)*their, your* (form.)

3.2 Possessive adjectives

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 cousin

mi primo

my cousins

mis primos

my aunt

mi tía

my aunts

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

3.2 Possessive adjectives

- ▶ 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.

3.2 Possessive adjectives

- ▶ 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**

his/her relatives

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

your relatives

los parientes **de ellos/ellas**

their relatives

3.2 Possessive adjectives



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

- | | |
|--|--|
| 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. |