

Possessive Adjectives

Short form and long form

Short Form

- The short form of the possessive adjectives is generally the first one you learn in a Spanish class.
- They work similarly to the possessives in English with one important exception; they must match the noun they modify in number and gender.
- This is the most commonly used of the 2 forms of possessive adjectives.

What do they look like?

mi, mis	my
tu, tus	your (singular, familiar)
su, sus	his, her, your (formal), their
nuestro, nuestros nuestra, nuestras	our
vuestro, vuestros vuestra, vuestras	your (plural, familiar)

Examples, please!

It is important for you to remember that these need to match the thing being possessed in number and gender, not the possessor.

my cat

mi gato

my cats

mis gatos

our hat

nuestro sombrero

our hats

nuestros sombreros

When not to use them

There are some instances that require the use of the possessive in English that do not in Spanish:

- I am washing my hair. → Me lavo el pelo.
- My head hurts. → Me duele la cabeza.

Also, since *su* can mean so many things, it is often preferable to use *de* and the subject pronoun:

- Tengo su perro. → Tengo el perro de ella.
- Como su cena, → Como la cena de ellos.

Long form

- These can mean the same thing as the short form, but they are better translated as “of mine” or “of yours.”
- They still match the noun in number and gender.
- They follow the noun rather than come before.

What do they look like?

mío, mía míos, mías	my, of mine
tuyo, tuya tuyos, tuyas	your (singular, familiar), os yours
suyo, suya suyos, suyas	his, her, your (formal), their, of his, of hers, of theirs, of yours
nuestro, nuestros nuestra, nuestras	our, of ours
vuestro, vuestros vuestra, vuestras	your (plural, familiar)

Examples

my cat/the cat of mine

my cats/the cats of mine

our hat/the hat of ours

our hats/the hats of ours

el gato mío

los gatos míos

el sombrero nuestro

los sombreros nuestros

Practice

Can you write each of these 2 ways?

1. his books
2. our house
3. my sisters
4. your (familiar) parents
5. her dog

Answers

1. sus libros/los libros suyos/los libros de él
2. nuestra casa/la casa nuestra
3. mis hermanas/las hermanas mías
4. tus padres/los padres tuyos
5. su perro/el perro suyo/ el perro de ella

- Do not write “Mis padres casa” or anything like that.
- It’s always “La casa de mis padres.”

Escribe en español:

1. We went to our grandparents' house.
2. This is my cat's house.
3. I have my sister's book.
4. My parents' car is blue.
5. My brother's skateboard is great.

Las respuestas

1. Fuimos a la casa de nuestros abuelos.
2. Ésta es la casa de mi gato.
3. Tengo el libro de mi hermana.
4. El carro de mis padres es azul.
5. El monopatín de mi hermano es fenomenal.