

Possessive Adjectives

Possessive adjectives are used to show ownership.

mi libro my book
tu pluma your pen

There are five possessive adjectives.

mi
tu
su

nuestro
vuestro

Three possessive adjectives (mi, tu, su) have only two forms, singular and plural.

mi
mis

tu
tus

su
sus

Possessive adjectives agree with the nouns they modify. That is, they agree with the thing possessed, not the possessor.

mi libro my book
mis libros my books
tu pluma your pen
tus plumas your pens

Mi, tu and su do not have masculine and feminine forms. They stay the same, regardless of the gender of the nouns they modify.

mi amigo
mi amiga

tus hermanos
tus hermanas

su libro
sus plumas

Mi means "my" ; tu means "your."

Mi casa es tu casa My house is your house.

Su, like tu, can mean "your." The difference between your (tu) and your (su) lies in the degree of formality the speaker wishes to convey.

Mi casa es tu casa (speaking to someone you would address as "tú")

Mi casa es su casa (speaking to someone you would address as "usted")

NOTE: The two words "tu" and "tú" are pronounced the same. Tú (with the written accent) is the subject pronoun meaning "you" (informal). Tu (without the written accent) is the possessive adjective meaning "your" (informal).

Su has four meanings: his, her, their and your (formal).

María busca a su hermana María is looking for her sister.

Juan busca a su hermana Juan is looking for his sister.

Ellos buscan a su hermana They are looking for their sister.

Su madre busca a su hermana..... Your mother is looking for your sister.

If the meaning of su is not clear from the context of the sentence, a prepositional phrase is used in place of su.

María busca a la hermana de él..... María looks for his sister.

El hombre busca las llaves de ella The man looks for her keys.

María busca el cuaderno de Juan María looks for Juan's notebook.

El hombre busca las llaves de Samanta The man looks for Samanta's keys.

Two possessive adjectives (nuestro and vuestro) have four forms.

nuestro

nuestra

nuestros

nuestras

vuestro

vuestra

vuestros

vuestras

Nuestro means "our."

nuestro hermano our brother

nuestra hermana..... our sister

nuestros hermanos... our brothers

nuestras hermanas... our sisters

Vuestro means "your" (familiar, plural). Like vosotros, vuestro is primarily used in Spain.

vuestro libro your book

vuestra pluma your pen

vuestros libros your books

vuestras plumas your pens

■ Here are all of the possessive adjectives:

mi(s).....	my
tu(s)	your (fam. sing.)
su(s)	his, her, your (formal), their
nuestro(-a, -os, -as)	our
vuestro(-a, -os, -as).....	your (fam. pl.)

■ Note that these possessive adjectives are not used with articles of clothing or body parts. Rather, the definite article is used.

Me gusta el vestido nuevo.....	I like my new dress
Me duele el brazo	My arm hurts.