

The Long Forms

Spanish also has long forms of the possessive pronouns. They consist of one word and follow the noun.

Long forms

(yo) mío/mía, míos/mías	mine
(tú) tuyo/tuya, tuyos/tuyas	yours (familiar, sing.)
(él/ella, Ud.) suyo/suya, suyos/suyas	his, hers, yours (formal, sing.)
(nosotros/nosotras) nuestro/nuestra, nuestros/nuestras	ours
(vosotros/vosotras) vuestro/vuestra, vuestros/vuestras	yours (familiar, pl. [Spain])
(ellos/ellas, Uds.) suyo/suya, suyos/suyas	theirs, yours (formal, pl.)

Compare the English equivalents in the following examples:

los zapatos y las camisas tuyas	<i>your shoes and your shirts</i>
el libro y la libreta suyas	<i>his/her/your/their book and his/her/your/their notebook</i>
el abuelo nuestro y las primas nuestras	<i>our grandfather and our cousins</i>
los amigos suyos y las maestras suyas	<i>her/his/your/their friends and her/his/your/their teachers</i>

Note that:

- the long forms of the possessive adjectives *follow* the nouns they modify.
- all long forms have a masculine, a feminine, and their respective plural forms.
- **mío, mía, míos, and mías** have an accent mark.
- the third-person singular and plural forms have several translations in English. See the English equivalents of the examples above.
- *of mine, of yours, of ours, etc.*, are other English equivalents of the long forms.

¿Encuentras unos amigos **míos**?

Are you meeting some friends of mine?

ejercicio

21-4

Práctica. Use the long form of the possessive adjective that refers to the person in each set of parentheses (*mío, mía, suyo, etc.*).

- (Teresa) la hermana _____
- (nosotras) la rutina _____
- (Uds.) el trabajo _____
- (ellos) la pasión _____
- (Ud.) el diario _____
- (Pedro y yo) la cuenta bancaria _____
- (nosotros) las reservaciones _____
- (tú) la suegra (*mother-in-law*) _____
- (los niños) las tortugas (*tortoises*) _____
- (yo) el primo _____
- (ellos) el sillón (*easy chair*) _____
- (Uds.) la receta (*recipe*) _____

Possessive Pronouns

Possessive pronouns (**pronombres posesivos**) are also used to indicate possession. They are the same as the long forms of the possessive adjectives. However, they are always expressed with the definite article.

Possessive pronoun forms

(yo) el mío, la mía, los míos, las mías	mine
(tú) el tuyo, la tuya, los tuyos, las tuyas	yours (familiar, sing.)
(él/ella, Ud.) el suyo, la suya, los suyos, las suyas	his/hers, yours (formal, sing.)
(nosotros/nosotras) el nuestro, la nuestra, los nuestros, las nuestras	ours
(vosotros/vosotras) el vuestro, la vuestra, los vuestros, las vuestras	yours (familiar, pl. [Spain])
(ellos/ellas, Uds.) el suyo, la suya, los suyos, las suyas	theirs, yours (formal, pl.)

mi libro y **el tuyo**

Su auto es más moderno que **el mío**.

Nuestra idea y **la suya** son buenas.

Olvidé mi teléfono. ¿Puedo usar **el tuyo**?

my book and yours

Her car is more luxurious than mine.

Our idea and yours are good.

I forgot my phone. May I use yours?

Like other pronouns, possessive pronouns replace nouns previously mentioned. They take the place of nouns preceded by possessive adjectives. In the last example above (**mi teléfono**), the context refers to the owner, **yo**, and the thing owned, *my telephone*. **El tuyo** avoids the repetitive **tu teléfono**, replacing the possessive adjective + noun with the possessive pronoun.

Remember these guidelines:

- Use the definite articles + the long form of the possessive adjectives to form the possessive pronouns. That is, the noun is dropped while the article + pronoun convey the message.
- All forms have a masculine form, a feminine form, and their respective plural forms.
- The third-person singular and plural forms have several translations in English (*yours, his, hers, theirs*).

You may need to use a definite article + **de** + the pronoun **él, ella, Ud., ellos, ellas, or Uds.** to clarify your message. To narrow down the meaning further, you may also use the name of the person.

—Aquí vienen Ana y Felipe. Es **su** cumpleaños.

—¿**El de ella** o **el de él**?

—**El de Ana**.

"Here come Ana and Felipe. It is her (or his) birthday."

"Hers or his?"

"Hers (Ana's)."

Note that in English, the possessive form *hers* would suffice, and there would be no need for clarification. In Spanish, an attempt to answer this question with **el suyo** will likely be ambiguous.

- Use the neuter possessive form **lo** + the masculine possessive pronoun to refer to a concept or idea.

Lo mío es mío.

Lucía quiere **lo suyo**.

What is mine is mine.

Lucia wants what is hers.

ejercicio

21-7

Cambia las palabras en cursiva. Usa forma apropiada de los pronombres posesivos.

Observa el ejemplo: Tengo la silla de mi madre. → Tengo la suya.

1. Me gusta *la foto de Juan*. _____
2. ¿Tienes *tus fotos* aquí? _____
3. Prefieren *el postre (dessert) de Juliana*. _____
4. No quieren probar *mi receta*. _____
5. ¿Por qué cierran *las puertas del hotel*? _____
6. *Mi ventana* está abierta. _____
7. *Sus sábanas (bedsheets)* son de seda (*silk*). _____
8. Pero *tus toallas* son de algodón (*cotton*). _____
9. ¡Acabo de encontrar *el reloj de Armand* en la basura! _____
10. Por suerte, *nuestras cosas* están todas aquí. _____
11. Tomo *mis vitaminas* por la mañana. _____