LEVEL A1 • American English

Possessive Adjectives

Showing ownership & relationships without common Spanish-translation traps.

FORMULA

`Possessive + Noun`

Master Reference Table

SUBJECT	POSSESSIVE	SPANISH EQUIVALENT	PRONUNCIATION GUIDE	NATURAL EXAMPLE (PRESENT TENSE)
I	**my**	mi / mis	MAI	This is **my** phone.
you	**your**	tu / tus, su / sus	YOR	What is **your** name?
he	**his**	su / sus (de él)	JIZ (soft 'j', buzzing 'z')	Carlos drives **his** car to school.
she	**her**	su / sus (de ella)	JER (aspirated 'h' + curled 'er')	Maria loves **her** job.
it	**its**	su / sus (de cosa/animal)	ITS (No apostrophe!)	The cat is in **its** house.
we	**our**	nuestro/a/os/as	AUR (often sounds like "are")	We love **our** house.
they	**their**	su / sus (de ellos/ellas)	DER (voiced 'th', like "there")	They visit **their** parents every week.

Rule 1: Never Add "-S" to Possessives

In Spanish, possessives change with plural nouns (*mi libro → mis libros*). In English, **possessive adjectives never change**:

✓ **my friends / our books** ~~✗ mys friends / ours books~~

✓ **their children** ~~✗ theirs children~~

Rule 2: The "SU / SUS" Trap (Owner vs. Object)

The possessive agrees with the **owner**, NOT the object possessed:

his	**her**	**their**
Male Owner	Female Owner	2+ Owners
David loves **his** sister.	Sarah loves **her** brother.	They love **their** house.

Rule 3: Never Say "The My..."

In English, the possessive adjective replaces the article. Never combine **the + possessive**:

✓ **This is my jacket.**

~~✗ This is the my jacket.~~

Rule 4: ITS vs. IT'S (Classic Exam Trick)

its (no apostrophe)	**it's** (with apostrophe)
Possessive adjective	Contraction: *it is*
"The dog is with **its** toy."	"**It's** very cold today."

Quick Self-Check Practice

1. Maria is in _____ new car.
(Maria is female)
Answer: her

2. I like _____ new shoes.
(Plural noun trap!)
Answer: your (no -s)

3. The hotel has _____ own pool.
(Thing / possessive)
Answer: its (no apostrophe)