**POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS and adjectives**

We begin this lesson with a review of the difference between an adjective and a pronoun.

***adjective –*** *describes a noun* ***pronoun –*** *takes the place of a noun*

Look at the following sentence pairs. One has an adjective, while the other has a pronoun.

***My****book is large. (adjective, describes book)* ***Yours****is small. (pronoun, takes the place of noun)*

***Your****car is green. (adjective, describes car)* ***Mine****is red. (pronoun, takes the place of noun)*

Now, let’s look at each sentence a little more closely.

***My book is large.*** *–* ***My****is an adjective because it modifies, or describes the noun “book.” Furthermore, it is a “possessive” adjective because it tells who owns, or possesses, the book.*

***Yours is small.*** *--* ***Yours****is a pronoun, because it replaces or takes the place of a noun. In this case, the previous sentence tells us that “yours” is replacing the noun “book.” Furthermore, it is a “possessive” pronoun because it tells who owns, or possesses, the noun it is replacing.*

***Your car is green.*** *–* ***Your****is an adjective because it modifies the noun “car.” Furthermore, it is a “possessive” adjective because it tells who owns, or possesses, the car.*

***Mine is red – Mine****is a pronoun, because it replaces or takes the place of a noun. In this case, the previous sentence tells us that “mine” is replacing the noun “car.” Furthermore, it is a “possessive” pronoun because it tells who owns, or possesses, the noun it is replacing.*

The possessive adjectives are:

***mi(s)*** *my mi libro mis plumas*

***tu(s)*** *your (fam. sing.) tu libro tus plumas*

***su(s)*** *his, her, your (formal), their su libro sus plumas*

***nuestro(-a, -os, -as)*** *our nuestro libro nuestras plumas*

The possessive pronouns are similar to the possessive adjectives, but they are normally used with the definite article.

***mine*** *el mío / la mía los míos / las mías*

***yours (familiar)*** *el tuyo / la tuya los tuyos / las tuyas*

***yours (formal), his, hers*** *el suyo / la suya los suyos / las suyas*

***ours*** *el nuestro / la nuestra los nuestros / las nuestras*

***yours (formal), theirs*** *el suyo / la suya los suyos / las suyas*

Now let’s translate our model sentences:

***Mi libro es grande.*** *My book is large.*

***El tuyo es pequeño*** *Yours is small.*

***Tu carro es verde.*** *Your car is green.*

***El mío es rojo.*** *Mine is red.*

The previous translations assume that you are talking to a friend, or someone you know well, and are using the informal “tú” form of speech. But remember, Spanish also has a more formal form of speech. Notice how the same sentences change if we assume that you are talking to someone in a position of authority, using the more formal “usted” form of speech.

***Mi libro es grande.****(no change) My book is large.*

***El suyo es pequeño.****(formal) Yours (formal) is small.*

***Su carro es verde.****(formal) Your (formal) car is green.*

***El mío es rojo.****(no change) Mine is red.*

1. Select the correct possessive pronouns.
   1. ¿Dónde trabaja su esposo?. Where does your husband work?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_trabaja en el aeropuerto. Mine works at the airport.

* 1. ¿Dónde está su tienda?. Where is her store?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_está en el centro. Hers is downtown.

* 1. ¿Cómo están los padres de Ernesto? .How are Ernest's parents?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_están bien. His are fine.

* 1. ¿Cuántos años tiene la hermana de Raquel?. How old is Raquel's sister?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_tiene cinco años. Hers is five years old.

* 1. ¿Dónde están nuestros vecinos?. Where are our neighbors?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_están en sus casas. Ours are in their houses.

* 1. ¿Cuándo abren los niños sus regalos?. When do the kids open their gifts?

Ellos abren  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_They open theirs tomorrow.

* 1. ¿Necesitan ustedes nuestros libros? Do you-all need our books?

Sí, necesitamos \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Yes, we need yours (formal).

1. Select the correct possessive pronouns.
   1. her book (el libro) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. Marta’s pen (la pluma)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   3. his pen
   4. their pens