

Expressing Possession

* The apostrophe is not a punctuation mark in Spanish.

* Possession is expressed by a possessive adjective or by using *de*.

Possessive adjectives					
	singular	plural		singular	plural
my	<i>mi</i>	<i>mis</i>	our	<i>nuestro</i> <i>nuestra</i>	<i>nuestros</i> <i>nuestras</i>
your	<i>tu</i>	<i>tus</i>	your	<i>vuestro</i> <i>vuestra</i>	<i>vuestros</i> <i>vuestras</i>
his her its	<i>su</i>	<i>sus</i>	their	<i>su</i>	<i>sus</i>

* Possessive adjectives are placed before the noun they modify.

Expressing Possession, cont'd.

*Unlike English, the possessive adjectives must agree in number and gender with the noun possessed, and not that of the owner.

Ejemplos:

Él trabaja con sus hijos. *He works with his children.*

Ella estudia con tus hijos.
She studies with your children.

*Another valid way to express possession is with *de*.

**de* = of, from. This is helpful if the meaning of *su/sus* is unclear from context.

Ejemplos:

Su libro está en la mesa. *His/her/its book is on the table.*

El libro de David está en la mesa.
David's book is on the table.

Revisiting mixed groups

*We default to the masculine plural form, when we talk about two or more relatives in a mixed group (both males and females).

Ejemplos:

los abuelos *el abuelo y la abuela*

los padres *el padre y la madre*

los hermanos *hermano(s) y hermana(s)*

los tíos *tío(s) y tía(s)*

los primos *primo(s) y prima(s)*

los sobrinos *sobrino(s) y sobrina(s)*

los nietos *nieto(s) y nieta(s)*

El verbo llamarse=*to call oneself*

*This verb is reflexive: it means that the action happens to oneself.

*You put the reflexive pronoun in front of the verb, which all refer to the same person.

Yo me llamo *I call myself*

Nosotros nos llamamos
We call ourselves

Tú te llamas *You call
yourself*

Vosotros os llamáis
You all call yourselves

Él/Ella/Usted se llama
He/she calls himself/herself

Ellos/Ellas/Ustedes se
llaman
*They call themselves
You all (form) call yourselves*

Writing dates in Spanish

*To give the date in Spanish, you follow this custom:

el + número + de + mes

*The first day of the month is always called *el primero*.

*When abbreviating with digits, you follow the same order: day-month-year. Sometimes a Roman numeral may be used for the month.

*Months are never capitalized.

Ejemplos:

Mi cumpleaños es el dieciocho de marzo.

My birthday is March eighteenth.

18-6-1999 or 18-VI-1999

June 18, 1999.

Writing dates in Spanish

*Months are as follows:

enero

julio

febrero

agosto

marzo

septiembre

abril

octubre

mayo

noviembre

junio

diciembre

Hispanic naming customs

1. apellidos = *surnames, last names*

- *Hispanic people use two surnames.
- *The first (principal) comes from your father.
- *The second surname comes from your mother.
- *They may be hyphenated or connected by *y*.

Ejemplo:

José Antonio Rodríguez Guerra
José Antonio Rodríguez-Guerra
José Antonio Rodríguez y Guerra

If a woman marries?:

- *A woman uses the same two surnames from birth.
- *For formalities, she may use her husband's surname, connecting with *de*.

María Teresa Rivas Hoyas *de Rodríguez*.

Hispanic naming customs

2. nombres de pila: = *Christian, baptismal name, first names.*

*This is your formal given name.

*Traditionally of Biblical origin, or that of a saint.

*Traditionally, the saint's feast day is celebrated as a "2nd birthday."

*Nowadays, this tradition is less common, as parents choose non-Christian names, or names that are Spanish pronunciations of English words.

3. sobrenombres: = *nicknames*

*A shortened, casual form of the nombre de pila.

Toño => Antonio Tere => Teresa

4. apodos: = *nicknames based on appearance*

*Not meant to be an insult, but a sign of affection.

Gordito = "Little fat one"