

## COLORING COWS



**Adjectives ADD** to your knowledge about people, places, and things. In Spanish, **adjectives** work like a coloring book most of the time. You see what's being talked about, and then you color it in. So instead of saying, "Look at the **brown** cow!" we say,

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-¡Mira la vaca **morena!**-  
Look at the cow brown!

In English we have our color, but we're waiting to find out where it goes. What happens if our communication gets cut off? "Look out for the **brown** -"  
Oops. Brown what?

In Spanish, we have our cow and then we color it.

No big deal, right?

*Right.*

And most textbooks do a decent job at showing that adjectives change in order to match what they're describing. Think of it like coloring within the lines.

-¿Qué ves tú?-  
What see you?

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-Yo veo un toro **moreno.**-  
I see a bull brown.

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-¿Una vaca **morena?**-  
A cow brown?

+

-No. Un toro **moreno.**-  
No. A bull brown.

See how brown didn't change in English, but how it did change in Spanish? That's also true for how many items you have.

Yo tengo dos toros  *morenos*.  
I have two bulls brown.

## OWNING ORANGES



Most **adjectives ADD** *after* you know what you're talking about. But the **short form of Possessive Adjectives** come *before* you mention what you're describing.

Textbooks put these **adjectives** in a chart just like the pronoun chart and expect that you won't get confused. Don't study the chart. The best way to learn **Possessive Adjectives** is in a vocabulary list, just like colors.



### Possessive Adjectives short form

*mi* - my

*nuestro* - our

*su* - your (polite), his, her, their

*tu* - your (friendly)

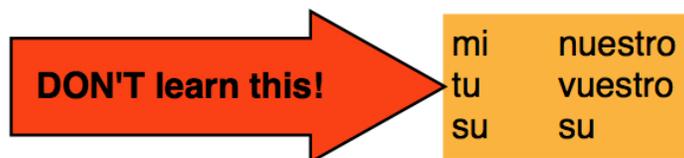
*vuestro* - your

Just remember to follow the rule about changing the end of the **adjective** to match the number of items and the gender of whatever it is you're describing.



-¡*Nuestras* naranjas son las mejores!-  
Our oranges are the best!

'Our' comes first, just like in English. It's all about ownership. Our oranges. **Possessive Adjectives** are easy. There is no need for this chart. You learn nothing from it.



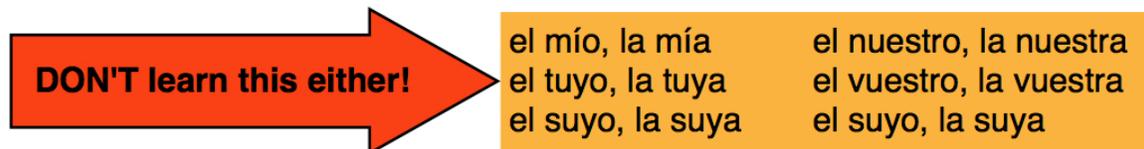
Stick to a vocabulary list.

Textbooks introduce **short form Possessive Adjectives** in a chart because they want to prepare you for when these **adjectives** jump to their **long form** (hardly ever used solely as adjectives) and become **Possessive Pronouns**.

“Pronouns have a chart,” they reason. “So why shouldn’t possessive pronouns? Let’s make one.”

Wrong!

The following textbook **chart** is misleading. Ignore it. Look away!



Aw, you looked. Fine, but don’t learn it.

It is better to remember that only **subjects** and **subject pronouns** change **verbs**. We drop verbs into the pronoun chart in order to see the related spelling changes. Right?

*Right!*

So then . . . **this chart is fruitless!** It is not helpful. Every **possessive pronoun** in that box, as it is, would just get the *3rd singular form* of a verb. There is no need for 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions on a chart. Why put something on a line if the line doesn’t matter? There’s no need for a plural column that doesn’t contain plural words! Want the *3rd plural form*? Add an 's.' So there's no difference from line to line nor between the left column and the right! Aaargh!!!

Now **Possessive Pronouns** act as **adjectives** by adding the detail of ownership, and as **pronouns** by replacing items that have been previously mentioned. (We will leave our labels **red** when talking about these pronouns because it is their descriptive function that allows us to continue to identify what we are talking about.)

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### Possessive Pronouns

*el mío, la mía* - mine, the one(s) belonging to me

*el nuestro, la nuestra* - ours, the one(s) belonging to us

*el suyo, la suya* - his or hers, the one(s) belonging to him or to her

*el tuyo, la tuya* - yours, the one(s) belonging to yo

*el vuestro, la vuestra* - the one(s) belonging to all you all

Watch “ours” jump in to replace “our oranges.”

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-¡*Nuestras* naranjas son las mejores!-  
Our oranges are the best!

pp

-¡No! ¡*Las nuestras* son las mejores!-  
No! Ours are the best!

Amazingly easy, right?

They are just vocabulary words.

## POINTING FOR SHOW AND TELL



**Demonstrative Adjectives** point out what you're talking about. You're either close enough to hold it, near by, or far, far away. If you pronounce demonstrative as "demonstrate-ive" it'll be hard to forget that they "show" your audience what you're talking about.

Learn them in a list and remember this saying:

*"This" and "these" have the Ts.  
Demonstrative pronouns have accents on Es.*



### Demonstrative Adjectives

*este, esta* - this  
*estos, estas* - these  
*ese, esa* - that  
*esos, esas* - those  
*aquel, aquella* - that one over there  
*aquellos, aquellas* - those ones over there

### Demonstrative Pronouns

*éste, ésta* - this  
*éstos, éstas* - these  
*ése, ésa* - that  
*ésos, esas* - those  
*aquéel, aquélla* - that one over there  
*aquéellos, aquéllas* - those ones over there

† + p +  
-Ese toro moreno comió tus naranjas horribles.-  
That bull brown ate your oranges terrible.

† pp  
-¿Cuál toro? ¿Aquél? Es el mío.  
Which bull? That one over there? He is mine.

† p pp  
Y éstas son mis naranjas aquí. ¿Y las tuyas? ¿Dónde están? -  
And these are my oranges right here. And yours? Where are they?

*IN "SUMMARY"*



**Adjectives**

- will only **ADD** to your knowledge of nouns (color, condition, possession and location).
- will change to match the noun they describe (masculine and feminine, singular and plural).