Long-Form Possessive Adjectives and Pronouns

¡Este premio es mío!

¡No, no es tuyo! ¡Es mío!
In Capítulo 3, you were introduced to the short forms (unstressed) of possessive adjectives. You may remember that . . .

These forms always precede the noun.

Mi signo es virgo y tu signo es piscis.

My sign is virgo and your sign is piscis.
In this chapter you will study the long (stressed) forms. Notice the following chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject pronoun</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
<th>Possessive Adjective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yo</td>
<td>mío/a</td>
<td>míos/as</td>
<td>my, (of) mine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tú</td>
<td>tuyo/a</td>
<td>tuyos/as</td>
<td>your (fam.), (of) yours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>él</td>
<td>suyo/a</td>
<td>suyos/as</td>
<td>his, (of) his, its</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ella Ud.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>hers, (of) hers, its</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nosotros/as</td>
<td>nuestro/a</td>
<td>nuestros/as</td>
<td>our, (of) ours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vosotros/as</td>
<td>vuestro/a</td>
<td>vuestros/as</td>
<td>your (fam. pl.), (of) yours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ellos</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>their, (of) theirs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ellas Uds.</td>
<td>suyo/a</td>
<td>suyos/as</td>
<td>their, (of) theirs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>your (form. pl.), (of) yours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In contrast to the short forms, the long forms of possessive adjectives always follow the noun. Also, all are four-form adjectives and thus agree with the noun in both gender and number.

La revista **tuya** está en la mesa.
   *Your magazine is on the table.*

Aquí tienes dos reseñas **mías**.
   *Here you have two reviews of mine.*

El titular **nuestro** es grande.
   *Our headline is big.*
The long forms of possessive adjectives may be used as pronouns. In such instances, the definite article is used with the possessive adjective and the noun is omitted.

Aquí hay dos cuadernos: uno negro y uno azul. ¿Cuál es el _tuyo_, el negro o el azul?

*Here are two notebooks: a black one and a blue one. Which is your, the black one or the blue one?*

*El mío* es el azul.

*Mine is the blue one.*
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More examples:

Los *nuestros* son muy buenos.

*Ours are very good.*

Las *tuyas* son horribles.

*Yours is horrible.*
As with the short forms of *su(s)*, long-form possessive adjectives and pronouns may be clarified in the third-person forms. For adjectives, the long form *suyo/a(s)* can be replaced by the construction *de* + *pronoun* in order to clarify the identity of the possessor.

—La crítica *suya* es imposible.

—*His* criticism is impossible.

—¿La crítica *de quién*?

—*Whose* criticism?

—La crítica *de él*. (no de ella o de usted)

—The criticism *of his*. (not hers or yours)
As with the short forms of su(s), long-form possessive adjectives and pronouns may be clarified in the third-person forms. For adjectives, the long form suyo/a(s) can be replaced by the construction de + pronoun in order to clarify the identity of the possessor.

—El anfitrión suyo llega ahora.
—Their host is arriving now.

—Sí, el de ellas (no de ellos o de ustedes, etc.) siempre llega a las diez.
—Yes, the host of theirs (not theirs [masculine] or yours, etc.) always arrives at ten.
For the pronouns **el suyo, la suya, los suyos, and las suyas**, use the definite article + de + pronoun: el/la de usted, los/las de ellos, etc. The definite article must agree in gender and number with the noun it replaces.

La suya (la telenovela) es más interesante que la nuestra.

**Yours (the soap opera) is more interesting than ours.**

Stated more unambiguously:

La de usted es más interesante que la nuestra.

**Yours is more interesting than ours.**
It should be noted that the stressed forms of the possessive adjectives and pronouns are used for emphasis in a comparative manner, much as we use vocal stress in English for the same purpose. Notice the following:

*My cell phone doesn’t have a digital camera.*

The preceding is a simple statement of fact. I’m not comparing my camera to anyone else’s. The word *my* is not stressed in English in this case, so the unstressed possessive is used in Spanish.

*Mi celular no tiene cámara digital.*
It should be noted that the stressed forms of the possessive adjectives and pronouns are used for emphasis in a comparative manner, much as we use vocal stress in English for the same purpose. Notice the following:

If, on the other hand, I want to compare my cell phone to yours, I might say something like . . .

*My cell phone doesn’t have a digital camera, but yours does.*

In this case, the stressed forms of the possessives are used in Spanish, just as we would use vocal stress in English.

*El celular mío no tiene cámara digital, pero el tuyo sí la tiene.*
Omission of the Definite Article

The definite article can be omitted after the verb *ser*, but only when the sentence deals with simple possession.

Este coche es mío, y aquél es tuyo.
Mi carro es verde. ¿De qué color es el tuyo? El mío es azul.

Since more is involved than simple possession, the article is obligatory, even after the verb *ser*. 
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