Expressing Possession & Ownership

What’s mine is mine...
Possession

- There are 3 ways to express possession and/or ownership in Spanish.
  - Use SER + de
  - Use TENER
  - Use possessive adjectives
Possession: **SER + de**

- **SER** is one of three verbs in Spanish that mean “to be”
- **SER** has an irregular conjugation.
- **SER** has a variety of uses and meanings, including *ownership*.
- **When we combine the verb “SER” with the preposition “de” it can express origin, makeup and ownership.**
Possession: **SER + de**

1. with “de” to describe origin:
   - Q: ¿De dónde eres?
   - A: Soy de Chicago.
   - I am from Chicago.

2. with “de” to describe what something is made of:
   - Q: ¿De qué son las enchiladas?
   - A: Las enchiladas son de pollo.
   - The enchiladas are chicken.
   - *(They are chicken enchiladas.)*
Possession: **SER + de**

3. with "**de**" to describe **ownership**.

- **Q:** ¿De quién **es** el libro?
- **A:** El libro **es de** Elena.
  - **The book is Elena’s.**
    - Literally: *The book is from Elena. (Elena owns the book.)*

- **Q:** ¿De quién **son** los libros?
- **A:** Los libros **son de** Elena.
  - **The books are Elena’s.**
    - Literally: *The books are from Elena. (Elena owns the books.)*
 ALERT: No apostrophe “s” in Spanish!!

- There is no apostrophe “s” in Spanish.
- So when you are reading the following sentence keep in mind the literal representations below.

- *El libro es de Elena.*
- The book is Elena’s.
  - Literally: *The book is from Elena.*
  - *(Elena owns the book.)*
Possession: **TENER**

- **TENER** is one of three ways in Spanish to express *possession*.

- **TENER** has a variety of uses and meanings.

- **TENER** has an irregular conjugation.
Possession: **TENER**

- **TENER** to describe possession:

  - Q: ¿Qué **tiene** usted?
  - A: **Tengo** una pluma.
    - *I have a pen.*

  - Q: ¿Qué **tienes** en tu mochila?
  - A: **Tengo** unos libros y un cuaderno en mi mochila.
    - *I have some books and a notebook in my backpack.*
Possession: **TENER**

- **Using TENER can indicate possession and/or ownership.**
- **Tengo** una pluma.
  - *I have a pen.*
  - *(I may or may not own the pen I have.)*
- **Tengo** unos libros y un cuaderno en mi mochila.
  - *I have some books and a notebook in my backpack.*
  - *(I may or may not own the books and the notebook I have in my backpack)*
Possession: **Possessive adjectives**

- The 3rd way to express possession is to use **possessive adjectives**.

- ** Possessive adjectives** are placed in front of the noun they modify.

- **Possessive adjectives** agree in gender and number with the nouns they modify.
### Possessive Adjectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership for “yo”:</th>
<th>Ownership for “nosotros/as”:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mi + singular noun</td>
<td>nuestro + singular masculine noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mis + plural nouns</td>
<td>nuestra + singular feminine noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>nuestros + plural masculine nouns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>nuestras + plural feminine nouns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership for “tú”:</th>
<th>Ownership for “vosotros/as”:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tu + singular noun</td>
<td>vuestro + singular masculine noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tus + plural nouns</td>
<td>vuestra + singular feminine noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vuestras + plural masculine nouns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vuestras + plural feminine nouns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership for “él” “ella” “ellos” “ellas” “usted” “ustedes”:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>su + singular noun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sus + plural nouns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Characteristics

- **Possessive adjectives** in Spanish can be difficult to understand.
  - They refer to a **subject** so they **look** like a **pronoun**.
  - They also agree in gender/number, so they **function** like **adjectives**.
  - One **possessive adjective** can give a lot of information.
    - **Mi** = indicates 1st person singular, and also refers to ownership of a singular masculine or feminine noun
    - **Nuestro** = indicates 1st person plural, and also refers to ownership of a singular masculine noun
What information can we gather with these examples?

- Mi libro.
- My book.
- Mis libros.
- My books.
- Tu libro.
- Your book.
- Tus libros.
- Your books.
What information can we gather with these examples?

- **Nuestro libro.**
- **Our book.**
- **Nuestros libros.**
- **Our books.**
- **Vuestro libro.**
- **Your book. (The book of y’all)**
- **Vuestros libros.**
- **Your books. (The books of y’all)**
- **Su libro = ???**
- **Sus libros = ???**