1. A possessive adjective is a word that shows possession and it ***agrees in gender and number with the noun being possessed, not with the possessor***. A short form of a possessive adjective is placed in front of the noun. If there is more than one noun stated, a possessive adjective is needed in front of each noun.

***mi*** *madre y* ***mi*** *padre* ***my*** *mother and (****my****) father*

2. There are two forms for the possessive adjectives: ***the short form and the long form***.

**The short form is placed in front of the noun. The short forms are:**

***English Meaning Before a Singular Noun Before a Plural Noun***

**my** ***mi*** *amigo,* ***mi*** *amiga* ***mis*** *amigos,* ***mis*** *amigas*

**your** [familiar singular] ***tu*** *amigo,* ***tu*** *amiga* ***tus*** *amigos,* ***tus*** *amigas*

**your** [formal], **his**, **her**, **its** ***su*** *amigo,* ***su*** *amiga* ***sus*** *amigos,* ***sus*** *amigas*

**our** ***nuestro*** *amigo,* ***nuestros*** *amigos,*

***nuestra*** *amiga* ***nuestras*** *amigas*

**your** [familiar plural] ***vuestro*** *amigo,* ***vuestros*** *amigos,*

***vuestra*** *amiga* ***vuestras*** *amigas*

**your** [formal], **their** ***su*** *amigo,* ***su*** *amiga* ***sus*** *amigos,* ***sus*** *amigas*

In order to clarify the meanings of *su* or *sus*, when there might be ambiguity, do the following: Replace *su* or *sus* with the definite article + the noun and add *de Ud.*, *de él*, *de ella*, *de Uds.*, *de ellos*, *de ellas*.

***su*** *libro* OR *el libro* ***de Ud.***, *el libro* ***de él***, *el libro* ***de ella***; *el libro* ***de Uds.***, *el libro* ***de ellos***, *el libro* ***de ellas***

***sus*** *libros* OR *los libros* ***de Ud.***, *los libros* ***de él***, *los libros* ***de ella***; *los libros* ***de Uds.***, *los libros* ***de ellos***, *los libros* ***de ellas***

**The long form is placed after the noun. The long forms are:**

***English Meaning Before a Singular Noun Before a Plural Noun***

**my**; **(of) mine *mío****,* ***mía míos****,* ***mías***

**your**; **(of) yours** [fam.] ***tuyo****,* ***tuya tuyos****,* ***tuyas***

**your**, **(of) yours** [for.]; ***suyo****,* ***suya suyos****,* ***suyas***

**his**, **(of) his**; **her**,

**(of) hers**; **its**, **(of)**

**its**

**our**; **(of) ours *nuestro****,* ***nuestra nuestros****,* ***nuestras***

**your**; **(of) yours** [fam.] ***vuestro****,* ***vuestra vuestros****,* ***vuestras***

**your**, **(of) yours** [for.]; ***suyo****,* ***suya suyos****,* ***suyas***

**their**, **(of) theirs**

EXAMPLES:

***amigo mío****/my friend* ***un amigo mío****/a friend of mine*

The long forms are used primarily:

--when you are talking directly to someone or when writing a letter to someone:

***¡Hola, amigo mío! ¿Qué tal?*** *Hello, my friend¡ How are things?*

--when you want to express “*of mine*,” “*of yours*,” “*of his*,” “*of hers*,” etc.

--with the verb *ser*:

***Estos libros son míos.*** *These books are mine.*

--in the expression:

***¡Dios mío!*** *My heavens!/My God!*

In order to clarify the meanings of *suyo*, *suya*, *suyos*, *suyas* (since they are third person singular or plural), do the same as for *su* and *sus* above: *dos amigos suyos* can be clarified as: *dos amigos de Ud.*, *dos amigos de él*, (two friends of yours, of his).

The long forms of the possessive adjectives are used to serve as possessive pronouns.

A possessive adjective is ordinarily not used when referring to an article of clothing being worn or to parts of the body, particularly when a reflexive verb is used:

***Me lavo las manos antes de comer.*** *I wash my hands before eating.*