

LESSON NOTES

Absolute Beginner S3 #14 Talking about Possession in Spanish

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INFORMAL SPANISH

1. MARÍA: ¡Mira, Ashley, una bolsa!
2. ASHLEY: ¿No es tuya?
3. MARÍA: No, no es mía.
4. ASHLEY: Señorita, ¿esta bolsa es suya?
5. PASSERBY: Sí, es mía. ¡Gracias!

ENGLISH

1. MARÍA: Look, Ashley, a handbag!
2. ASHLEY: It's not yours?
3. MARÍA: No, it's not mine.
4. ASHLEY: Ma'am, is this bag yours?
5. PASSERBY: Yes, it's mine. Thank you!

VOCABULARY

Spanish	English	Class	Gender
ser	to be (permanent characteristics)	verb	
tuyo, -a	yours	possessive pronoun	masculine
suyo, -a	his, hers, theirs	possessive pronoun	feminine

una	a	indefinite article	
mirar	look	verb	
bolsa	bag, handbag	noun	feminine
mío, -a	mine	possessive adjective	
esta	this	pronoun	feminine

SAMPLE SENTENCES

<p>Es bueno ser honesto.</p> <p>"It is good to be honest."</p>	<p>Esta mochila es la tuya.</p> <p>"This backpack is yours."</p>
<p>Me gustan los míos, pero más me gustan los tuyos.</p> <p>"I like mine, but I like yours more."</p>	<p>Es suyo.</p> <p>"It's hers."</p>
<p>Perdí mi libro. ¿Tienes una copia?</p> <p>"I lost my book. Do you have a copy?"</p>	<p>La mujer está viendo algo lejos.</p> <p>"The woman is looking at something far away."</p>
<p>Dame la bolsa.</p> <p>"Give me the handbag."</p>	<p>Él no es amigo mío.</p> <p>"He is not a friend of mine."</p>

Esta tarde iré al doctor.

"This afternoon I am going to the doctor."

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

¡Mira!

¡Mira! meaning "to look," is an imperative expression. The verb is *mirar* and is different from *ver* ("to see" or "to watch") in that *mirar* is less passive. *Observar* ("to observe") means to watch carefully.

Bolsa

Bolsa is a word with many uses. It may refer to a woman's "handbag" (*bolsa de mano*), the "pocket" in someone's trousers (*bolsa* or *bolsillo*), a "supermarket plastic bag" (*bolsa de plástico*), "a tote bag" or "a backpack" (*mochila*), "a suitcase" (*bolsas* or *maletas*), and even to the "stock market" (*la bolsa de valores*).

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is to Teach You the Possessive Pronouns *Mío/Mía, Tuyo/Tuya, and Suyo/Suya*.

¡Mira, Ashley, una bolsa! ¿No es tuya?

"Look, Ashley, a handbag! It's not yours?"

In Spanish, possessive pronouns are words that denote belonging: *mío* ("mine"), *tuyo* ("yours"), and *suyo* ("his/hers"). They always refer to a noun (something belonging to someone), but the noun is implied. As in English, we must distinguish them from possessive adjectives *mi* ("my"), *tu* ("your"), and *su* ("his/her").

For Example:

Possessive Adjectives	Possessive Pronouns
<i>mi perro</i> ("my dog")	<i>el mío</i> ("mine")
<i>mi bolsa</i> ("my bag")	<i>la mía</i> ("mine")
<i>tu perro</i> ("your dog")	<i>el tuyo</i> ("yours")
<i>tu bolsa</i> ("your bag")	<i>la tuya</i> ("yours")
<i>su perro</i> ("his/her dog")	<i>el suyo</i> ("his"/"hers")
<i>su bolsa</i> ("his/her bag")	<i>la suya</i> ("his"/"hers")

It is important to note that possessive pronouns change according to the gender and number of the noun. Using the same examples, see the following variations.

For Example:

Possessive Adjectives	Gender/Number	Possessive Pronouns
<i>mis perros</i> ("my dogs")	masculine, plural	<i>los míos</i> ("mine")
<i>mis bolsas</i> ("my bags")	feminine, plural	<i>las mías</i> ("mine")
<i>tus perros</i> ("your dogs")	masculine, plural	<i>los tuyos</i> ("yours")
<i>tus bolsas</i> ("your bags")	feminine, plural	<i>las tuyas</i> ("yours")
<i>sus perros</i> ("his/her dogs")	masculine, plural	<i>los suyos</i> ("his"/"hers")
<i>sus bolsas</i> ("his/her bags")	feminine, plural	<i>las suyas</i> ("his"/"hers")

In the dialogue, when Ashley asked *¿no es tuya?* ("Is it not yours?"), and when the passerby responded *sí, es mía* ("yes, it's mine"), they were both referring to *la bolsa* ("the handbag"). How would the dialogue change if instead of *la bolsa* they had been talking about *el perro* ("the dog")?

For Example:

- A: *¡Mira, Ashley, un perro!*
 "Look, Ashley, a dog!"
 B: *¿No es tuyo?*
 "Is it not yours?"
 A: *No, no es mío.*
 "No, it's not mine."
 B: *Señorita, este perro es suyo?*
 "Ma'am, is this dog yours?"
 C: *Sí, es mío. ¡Gracias!*
 "Yes, it's mine. Thank you!"

For Example:

- Este lápiz es mío.*
 "This pencil is mine."

2. *¿Este lápiz es tuyo?*
"Is this pencil yours?"

Examples From This Dialogue

1. *Señorita, ¿esta bolsa es suya?*
Sí, es mía. ¡Gracias!
"Ma'am, is this bag yours?"
"Yes, it's mine. Thank you!"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Is Finders, Keepers the Rule in Mexico?

In Mexico, you have to be careful and watch out for your things. Lost and Found departments are a myth in most places, and if you do bump into one, it's going to be rather uncommon that you get your things back. So either come properly insured or be prepared to lose some stuff. If you find something, you may try to contact the owner directly or hand it to someone in the facility where you found it. People almost never hand things to the police. And if you just ask around, someone may pretend to be the owner and run away with it. It's a question of scruples.