

5

Estos zapatos no son míos

These shoes are not mine

In this unit you will learn to:

- ✓ Use *de* + noun to express possession.
- ✓ Ask questions about possession.
- ✓ Use demonstrative adjectives and pronouns.
- ✓ Use possessive adjectives and pronouns.

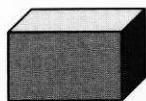
CEFR: Can use demonstrative adjectives and pronouns (A1); Can use possessive adjectives and pronouns (A2); Can deal with common aspects of everyday living such as shopping and say what you like and dislike (A2).

Meaning and usage

Demonstratives

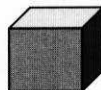
this/these

este/a



that/those

ese/a

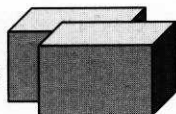


that/those (further away)

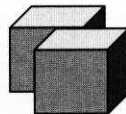
aquel/aquella



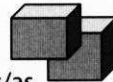
estos/as



esos/as



aquellos/as



- 1 words such as *this* and *that*, which we use to identify something, are known as *demonstratives*. English has two sets of demonstratives: *this*, for something which is closer to us, whether in space or time; *that*, for something which is further away from us. Spanish has three sets of demonstratives: **este** (*this*), **ese** (*that*), and a third one, **aquel** (also meaning *that*), which is used to identify something which is even further away.



The distinction between **ese** and **aquel** (*that*) is not always clear. But if something is far away, the more suitable word will be **aquel**: **Aquella es la montaña que visitaremos mañana.** (*That's the mountain we'll visit tomorrow.*)

2 Demonstratives in Spanish have masculine and feminine and singular and plural forms, agreeing with the accompanying noun or the noun they refer to:

este tren (*this train*), **estos trenes** (*these trains*); **esa señorita** (*that young lady*), **esas señoritas** (*those young ladies*).

3 demonstratives can function as *adjectives*, with an accompanying noun, as in **este coche** (*this car*) or as *pronouns*, in place of a noun which has been mentioned before, for example **este** (*this one*):

Este coche* es bueno, pero **ese** es mucho mejor. (*This car is good, but that one is much better.*)

*coche = carro/auto in Latin America



The distinction often made in writing between the demonstrative pronoun and the demonstrative adjective by means of a written accent on the pronoun (e.g. **ése** that one) is no longer required.

Demonstrative forms



A Julia is introducing her family to her friend Sara; complete the introduction with the correct demonstratives:

1 _____ es José, mi marido;

2 y _____ son mis hijos;

3 _____ es mi amiga Sara.

Masc. Sing	Fem. Sing		Masc. Pl	Fem. Pl	
este	esta	this	estos	estas	these
ese	esa	that	esos	esas	those
aquel	aquella	that	aquellos	aquellas	those

Este tren va para Valencia, ¿no? (*This train is going to Valencia, isn't it?*)

No, el tren para Valencia es **ese**. (*No, the train for Valencia is that one.*)

¿Cuánto cuestan **esas** gafas* de sol? (*How much are those sunglasses?*)

En **aquellos** tiempos no había Internet. (*In those days there was no Internet.*)

*gafas = lentes/anteojos in Latin America

The neuter forms **esto**, **eso**, **aquello**

Esto (*this*), **eso** (*that*) and **aquello** (*that*), all invariable, are neuter forms which do not refer to a specific noun, but to a situation or an idea:

¡**Esto** es increíble! (*This is incredible!*)

¿**Qué** es **eso**? (*What's that?*)

Aquello sucedió hace muchos años.
(*That happened many years ago.*)



Esto and **eso** are useful words to remember when asking about something whose name you do not know: **Por favor, ¿cómo se llama eso?** (*Excuse me, what's that called?*)



B Change the definite article to the correct Spanish word for *this/these*.

- 1 ¿Entramos en la tienda?
- 2 ¿Usted conoce al señor?
- 3 Los libros son de Juan ¿verdad?
- 4 ¿Vais a beber la botella de vino?
- 5 ¿Usted quiere las botas?
- 6 ¿Qué te parece el sombrero?

C Complete the sentences with **ese**, **esa**, **esos**, **esas** or **eso**.

- 1 Este autobús va a Llanes, _____ va a Posada.
- 2 ¿Por qué no entramos en _____ cafetería?
- 3 ¿Dónde está el impermeable de Sebastián? ¿Es _____?
- 4 Estas gafas de sol son caras. ¿Son más baratas _____?
- 5 ¿Por qué te metes en _____ cuando no tiene que ver contigo?
- 6 ¿Quiénes son _____ chicos?

D Complete the sentences with **aquel**, **aquella**, **aquellos**, **aquellas** or **aquello**.

- 1 No recuerdo bien _____ tiempos.
- 2 ¿Ves _____ casa blanca? Allí vive Lola.
- 3 ¿_____ señor allí en la esquina es el marido de Paula? ¡No me digas!
- 4 ¿Qué te gustan más: esas botas rojas o _____ blancas?
- 5 ¿Por qué crees que _____ chicos son amigos míos?
- 6 Nada de _____ le interesa a Óscar.



¡No me digas! (*Really?/You're kidding!*) is an exclamation you can use to express surprise and incredulity at something that someone has said to you when using the **tú** form of address; **¡No me diga!** if you are addressing the person as **usted**.

Meaning and usage

Possessives



E Here are some useful phrases including possessives. What do they mean?

- 1 ¿Cuál es su dirección?
- 2 ¿Cuál es su número de teléfono?
- 3 Perdona, ¿esta maleta es suya?

- 1 words like *my, mine, your, yours, her, hers* are known as possessives. Like English, Spanish has two sets of possessives: *short forms* like **mi** (*my*), **tu** (*your, for tú*), **su** (*his, her; your, for usted, ustedes; their*); and *long forms* like **mío** (*mine*), **tuyo** (*yours, for tú*), **suyo** (*his, hers; yours, for usted, ustedes; theirs*).
- 2 When possession is established by a pronoun, e.g. **me** (*me*), Spanish normally uses the definite article instead of a possessive:

Me duele la espalda. (*My back aches.*)

¿Se quita los zapatos, por favor? (*Will you take off your shoes, please?*)



F You and your travelling companion have done a lot of walking in the sun. How would you say My head aches?



Possessives in Spanish agree with the thing possessed, not with the possessor:

un amigo mío (*a male friend of mine*),
una amiga mía (*a female friend of mine*)

Short forms

Singular	Plural		Singular	Plural	
mi	mis	<i>my</i>	nuestro/a	nuestros/as	<i>our (m/f)</i>
tu	tus	<i>your (tú)</i>	vuestro/a	vuestros/as	<i>your (m/f) (vosotros)</i>
su	sus	<i>his, her, your (Vd.)</i>	su	sus	<i>their, your (Vds.)</i>

In writing, especially in formal correspondence, **usted** and **ustedes** are sometimes found in their abbreviated forms: **Vd.** or **Ud.** and **Vds.** or **Uds.**

- 1 short forms show number agreement (masculine or singular) but only **nuestro** (*our*) and **vuestro** (*your, of vosotros*) agree in gender (masculine or feminine):

Este es Luis, mi jefe, y estas son mis colegas. (*This is Luis, my boss, and these are my colleagues.*)

Nuestros hijos y vuestras hijas tienen casi la misma edad. (*Our children and your daughters are almost the same age.*)



G Answer the questions.

- 1 What does the hotel receptionist mean by **¿Cuál es el número de su habitación?**
- 2 How would you say: *This is not my key. My room is number 25.*
- 2 short forms can only function as adjectives, placed in front of a noun or a noun phrase:

Mi equipaje no es este. (*This is not my luggage.*)

Sus amigos ingleses les visitan todos los años. (*His English friends visit them every year.*)



H Replace the English word in brackets with the correct Spanish word.

- 1 (My) **bolso** está en (her) **coche**.
- 2 (Their) **madre** trabaja en el mismo supermercado que (your, vosotros) **madre**.
- 3 Los españoles tienen dos apellidos: el de (their) **padre** y el de (their) **madre**.
- 4 (His) **hermana** es muy amiga de (our) **padres**.
- 5 (Your, vosotros) **hijos** son encantadores.
- 6 Siempre pierdo (my) **gafas**.
- 7 (Our) **casa** está en el campo; (our) **piso** está en el centro de la ciudad.
- 8 **Toño**, guarda (your, tú) **juguetes** en (your) **dormitorio**.

Long forms

Singular		Plural		
Masc.	Fem.	Masc.	Fem.	
mío	mía	míos	mías	mine
tuyo	tuya	tuyos	tuyas	yours (tú)
suyo	suya	suyos	suyas	his, hers, yours (Vd.)
nuestro	nuestra	nuestros	nuestras	ours
vuestro	vuestra	vuestros	vuestras	yours (vosotros)
suyo	suya	suyos	suyas	theirs, yours (Vds.)



I What does your Spanish-speaking colleague mean by:

Este es Ricardo, un amigo mío de la universidad

- 1 long forms can function as adjectives, qualifying a noun, or as pronouns, in place of a noun:

La maleta* mía no es roja. (*My suitcase is not red.*) (adjective)

La mía es negra. Esa es tuya. (*Mine is black. That's yours.*) (pronouns, acting in place of **la maleta**)

***maleta** = **valija** in parts of Latin America



The construction with **de** is also used in phrases like: **La campana de la iglesia es muy antigua.** (The church bell is very old.); **El recepcionista del hotel fue muy amable.** (The hotel receptionist was very kind.)

- 2 to avoid the ambiguity that may arise with third person possessives **su** (*his, her, your, their*) when the context is not clear, you can use **de** followed by the corresponding subject pronoun (e.g. **él**):

La casa de él es muy moderna. (instead of **Su casa ...**) (*His house is very modern.*)

Los hijos de ella están grandes. (instead of **Sus hijos ...**) (*Her children are grown up.*)



L **Reword the sentences so they use the new sentence beginnings. The first one has been done for you.**

- 1 Mi amigo tiene un hermano mayor que él. El hermano de mi amigo es mayor que él.
- 2 En este pueblo hay una iglesia que data del siglo XII. La iglesia ...
- 3 Usted tiene un coche muy potente. El coche ...
- 4 Londres tiene aeropuertos muy grandes. Los aeropuertos ...
- 5 Raquel tiene una tienda en la calle mayor. La tienda ...
- 6 Carmen trabaja en un despacho en el quinto piso. El despacho ...

Asking questions about possession

To ask whose something is use **¿de quién?** (*whose?*) followed by **ser** (*to be*):

¿De quién es esta bici? (*Whose is this bike?*) – **Es mía.** (*It's mine.*)

¿De quién son estas llaves? (*Whose keys are these?*) – **Son de Raúl.** (*They are Raúl's.*)

SUGGESTION FOR