



CLASS 5

English Grammar Guide

Intermediate Level for Spanish Speakers

Possessive Adjectives · Noun Phrases · Passive Voice · Gerunds

Theory → Example → Practice



What are they?

Possessive adjectives show ownership. They agree with the possessor, not the object.

They are placed before the noun they modify.

1st Singular

my

mi / mis

my book

2nd Singular

your

tu / tus

your car

3rd Singular M

his

su / sus

his phone

3rd Singular F

her

su / sus

her bag

3rd Singular N

its

su / sus

its color

1st Plural

our

nuestro

our house

2nd/3rd Plural

their

su / sus

their team

The Key Rule: Agreement with the Possessor

! **Possessive adjectives agree with the POSSESSOR, not the possessed object.**

Unlike Spanish, English does NOT change for gender or number of the noun.

Masculine Possessor

his book / his books

su libro / sus libros

'his' doesn't change
regardless of book count

Feminine Possessor

her car / her cars

su carro / sus carros

'her' stays the same for
singular and plural
nouns

Neutral / Group

its tail / their tails

su cola / sus colas

'its' for one thing; 'their'
for groups



What is a Noun Phrase?

A Noun Phrase (NP) is a group of words centered around a noun (the Head). All other words in the NP function as modifiers.

- ◆ Head — the central noun
- ◆ Pre-modifier — words before the head
- ◆ Post-modifier — words after the head

General NP Structure

(Determiner) | (Pre-modifier) | **HEAD**
NOUN | (Post-modifier)

the | old | car | in the garage

my | beautiful | house | on the hill

Elements in () are optional

NP Analysis — Cases 1 to 4

Case 1

Noun + Noun

N + N

car door
puerta del carro

First noun modifies the second

Case 2

Article + Noun

Det + N

the book
el libro

Definite or indefinite article as determiner

Case 3

Demonstrative + Noun

Dem + N

this table / those chairs
esta mesa / esas sillas

this, that, these, those

Case 4

Possessive + Noun

Poss + N

my friend / their house
mi amigo / su casa

Possessive adjective as determiner

NP Analysis — Cases 5 to 8

Case 5

Adjective + Noun

Adj + N

beautiful garden
jardín hermoso

Adjective precedes noun in English (unlike Spanish)

Case 6

Participle + Noun

Part + N

broken window / running water
ventana rota / agua corriente

Past or present participle as pre-modifier

Case 7

Adverbial + Noun

Adv + N

the here and now
el aquí y ahora

Adverb used as nominal modifier

Case 8

Complex / Nested NP

Det + Adj + N + PrepP

the old man in the park
el viejo hombre en el parque

Prepositional phrase as post-modifier

The Passive Voice Formula

OBJECT

+

AM / IS / ARE

+

PAST PARTICIPLE

The book is written by the author.

El libro es escrito por el autor.



Unknown Agent

When the doer of the action is unknown



Focus on Object

When the object/result is more important than who did it



Formal Register

Common in academic, scientific, and official writing

Active vs Passive — With Spanish Equivalents

She writes the report.

The report is written by her.

El informe es escrito por ella.

They clean the rooms.

The rooms are cleaned by them.

Los cuartos son limpiados por ellos.

He repairs the car.

The car is repaired by him.

El carro es reparado por él.

Active Structure

Subject (Agent) → **Verb** → **Object**

Passive Structure

Object (promoted) → **AM/IS/ARE + PP** →
by + Agent (opt.)

Transformation Exercises — Active to Passive

 Transform each active sentence into the present passive voice.

- 1 *The teacher explains the lesson.* → ***The lesson is explained by the teacher.***
- 2 *Maria cleans the kitchen every day.* → ***The kitchen is cleaned by Maria every day.***
- 3 *They repair the computers.* → ***The computers are repaired by them.***
- 4 *The company produces the cars.* → ***The cars are produced by the company.***



What is a Gerund?

A gerund is the -ING form of a verb used as a noun. It can perform multiple grammatical functions in a sentence.

Verb stem + -ING = Gerund

run → *running* · *swim* → *swimming*

① Subject

Swimming is fun.

② Object

I enjoy reading.

③ Complement

My hobby is painting.

④ Object of Preposition

She is good at singing.

⑤ After Certain Verbs

He avoids driving.

⑥ Adjective Use

A swimming pool.

Gerund Functions 1–3

1 Subject

[Gerund] + Verb + ...

The gerund acts as the subject of the sentence.

Swimming is great exercise.

Nadar es un gran ejercicio.

Reading improves vocabulary.

Leer mejora el vocabulario.

2 Object

Subject + Verb + [Gerund]

The gerund acts as the direct object of the verb.

I enjoy cooking.

Disfruto cocinar.

She loves dancing.

Ella ama bailar.

3 Complement

Subject + BE + [Gerund]

The gerund follows the verb 'to be' as a subject complement.

My hobby is painting.

Mi pasatiempo es pintar.

The problem is waiting.

El problema es esperar.

Gerund Functions 4–6

4 Object of Preposition

Preposition + [Gerund]

The gerund follows a preposition.

She is good at singing.

Ella es buena cantando.

He left without saying goodbye.

Se fue sin decir adiós.

5 After Certain Verbs

Verb + [Gerund]

Some verbs are always followed by a gerund, not an infinitive.

avoid enjoy finish keep mind
suggest consider practice

He avoids eating sugar.

Él evita comer azúcar.

6 Adjective / Modifier Use

[Gerund] + Noun

The gerund modifies a noun, acting like an adjective.

a swimming pool

una piscina

a running track

una pista de carreras

Note: In Spanish these are usually single nouns, not compound forms.

English vs Spanish — Key Grammar Differences

English

Spanish

Possessive Adj.

Invariable — 'his book / his books' (no gender/number change)

VS

Variable — '*su libro / sus libros*' (agrees with noun)

Adjective Position

Before the noun — 'a beautiful house'

VS

Usually after the noun — '*una casa hermosa*'

Passive Voice

Object + AM/IS/ARE + Past Participle

VS

Object + SER + Past Participle (agrees in gender/number)

Gerund as Subject

Gerund (-ING) — 'Swimming is fun.'

VS

Infinitive — '*Nadar es divertido.*'

Noun Compound

N+N compound — 'car door' (modifier first)

VS

N + de + N — '*puerta del carro*' (head noun first)

Class 5 — Summary & Key Takeaways

01 Possessive Adjectives

Agree with the POSSESSOR — invariable for gender/number of the noun.

02 Noun Phrase Analysis

8 cases: from simple Det+N to complex nested NPs with post-modifiers.

03 Present Passive Voice

Object + AM/IS/ARE + Past Participle. Agent introduced with 'by'.

04 Gerund (-ING) Functions

6 roles: Subject, Object, Complement, Prep Object, After Verbs, Adjective.

 **Theory → Example → Practice: You now have the tools. Apply them!**
Continue practicing with the exercises from this class.