

Possessive pronouns

In English To show ownership or relationship we can use possessive adjectives or pronouns. Possessive adjectives always go before a noun. Possessive pronouns are used alone, when you leave out the noun.

Possessive adjectives

These are **my** books.
I saw **their** car in the garage.

Possessive pronouns

Are those books **mine**?
Have you seen **ours**?

Possessive pronouns have slightly different endings from possessive adjectives.

my → **mine**
your → **yours**
his → **his**
her → **hers**
its → **its**

our → **ours**
your → **yours**
their → **theirs**

A In the following sentences, circle any **possessive pronouns** you find, and underline any possessive adjectives.

1. I cannot drive my car. Can I borrow yours?
2. Can I see your picture? I like it better than mine.
3. Give Lisa her purse. Is this jacket hers as well?
4. They claim this land is all theirs. But it's mine!
5. Our family went to the amusement park last week. And yours?
6. Tell Mike the dog is not wearing its collar. The dog is his, after all.
7. The Johnsons bought their house two years ago. We bought ours last year.
8. Their mothers don't get along. Her mom is much stricter than his.

In Spanish The **possessive adjectives** go before the noun, and **possessive pronouns** are used when the noun is left out. Pronouns must be used with the definite article (**el, la, los, las**), except after a form of the verb **ser**.

Possessive adjectives

Esos son **mis** libros.
Vi **su** carro en el garaje.

Possessive pronouns

¿Esos libros son **míos**?
¿Has visto **el nuestro**?

Possessive pronouns (and the definite article) must agree with the noun they refer to in gender and number.

<i>mine</i>	el mío	la mía	los míos	las mías
<i>yours (informal)</i>	el tuyo	la tuya	los tuyos	las tuyas
<i>his/hers/yours (formal)</i>	el suyo	la suya	los suyos	las suyas
<i>ours</i>	el nuestro	la nuestra	los nuestros	las nuestras
<i>yours (informal)</i>	el vuestro	la vuestra	los vuestros	las vuestras
<i>theirs/yours (formal)</i>	el suyo	la suya	los suyos	las suyas

POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

B Circle the **possessive pronouns** and underline the possessive adjectives.

1. Mi carro no funciona. ¿Me prestas el tuyo?
2. Nuestra cámara es más barata que la suya.
3. Sus perros comen mucho, los míos no.
4. Mis verduras están calientes, pero las tuyas están frías.
5. Amanda y Beatriz van a visitar a su abuelo; nosotros vamos a ver al nuestro.
6. Aquí están mi anillo y el de Carlota. El mío es más grande que el suyo.
7. Dorotea y Pili van a vender sus libros, pero los nuestros no se venden.
8. Mi chaqueta es más vieja que la de Alfonso. La suya es muy moderna.

C You and a friend are comparing things. Use possessive pronouns to answer her.

1. **Amiga:** ¿Cuál es más elegante, tu camisa o la de Alfredo?

Tú: La mía es más elegante que la suya.

2. **Amiga:** ¿Cuáles son más caros, mis aretes o los de Laura?

Tú: _____

3. **Amiga:** ¿Cuáles son más modernos, mis zapatos o los tuyos?

Tú: _____

4. **Amiga:** ¿Cuál es más divertida, nuestra clase o la clase de Julián y Ana?

Tú: _____

5. **Amiga:** ¿Cuál está más lejos, tu casa o la de tus primos?

Tú: _____

6. **Amiga:** ¿Cuáles son mayores, nuestros amigos o los amigos del profesor?

Tú: _____

D 1. Compare the following sentences, and fill in the blank in the Spanish sentence.

a. *That tie is mine.*

Esa corbata es _____.

b. *Look at our ties. Mine is better.*

Mira nuestras corbatas. _____
 es mejor.

2. When did you use the definite article **la** in Spanish? When is it left out?

Hace with time expressions

In English To talk about an event that began in the past and is still going on, the present perfect progressive tense is used. This is formed by combining the present tense of the verb **have**, the past participle **been**, and the **present participle** of the main verb. *How long* is usually expressed by the preposition **for**.

I **have been living** in this city **for** three years. (I still live here)
 She **has been studying** **for** three hours. (She is still studying)

The question used to ask about this time is **how long**:

How long have you been waiting?
 I have been waiting **for twenty minutes**.

A Underline the present perfect progressive in each sentence and circle the time period in each case.

- Liam has been talking to his girlfriend on the phone for three hours.
- We have been taking Spanish for three semesters.
- I have been waiting for this game for a whole year.
- He has been reading this book for a week.
- Johnny and Matt have been playing for a couple of hours.
- Lisa Marie has been dating her boyfriend for six months.
- Eve and Kristen have been playing basketball for three years.
- My parents have been saving for our vacation for nine months.

In Spanish To talk about an event that began in the past and is still going on, use **hace** + time period + **que** + **present tense verb**.

Hace tres años **que vivo** en esta ciudad.
Hace tres semestres **que** mi amiga **estudia** español.

Use **¿cuánto tiempo...?** to ask *how long?* There is no preposition in the answer, just **hace** + the time expression. Here are a few time expressions:

una semana	tres días	veinte minutos
dos meses	cuatro años	mucho/poco (tiempo)

¿Cuánto tiempo hace que trabajas? *How long have you been working?*
Hace seis meses **que trabajo**. *I have been working for six months.*

B Underline the **hace...+ que + present tense verb** expression in each sentence and circle the time period in each case.

- Hace mucho tiempo que mi padre trabaja en el banco.
- Hace tres horas que espero el autobús.

HACE WITH TIME EXPRESSIONS

3. Hace seis generaciones que nuestra familia vive en nuestra mansión.
4. Hace seis días que conozco a Enrique.
5. Hace tres horas que Gastón practica el violín.
6. Hace poco que mi hermana usa gafas.
7. ¿Cuánto tiempo hace que sabes manejar?

C You're a famous star, and are being interviewed for a magazine about your lifestyle. Write an appropriate answer using **hace... + que + present verb**.

1. ¿Cuánto tiempo hace que tu familia vive en tu ciudad o pueblo?
Hace diez años que mi familia vive en mi ciudad.

2. ¿Cuánto tiempo hace que conoces a tu mejor amigo o amiga?

3. ¿Cuánto tiempo hace que asistes a este colegio?

4. ¿Cuánto tiempo hace que juegas a tu deporte favorito?

5. ¿Cuánto tiempo hace que estudias español?

6. ¿Cuánto tiempo hace que eres famoso(a)?

D Compare the following sentences:

- a. *I have been reading novels for years.* Hace años que leo novelas.
b. *I have known you for a week.* Hace una semana que te conozco.

What difference do you notice in the tense of the two English sentences? Is the Spanish **present** tense with **hace** good for events that “began in the past and are still going on” in both cases?

Pero and sino

In English The word **but** is a **conjunction**. Conjunctions generally link two sentences, or parts of sentences. The sentence after **but** usually either raises an *objection* to what the first sentence expresses, or it can be a total *contradiction* of it.

I like this shirt, **but** I can't afford it.

Objection

I don't like the green shirt, **but** the red one.

Contradiction

In the second sentence, *the red one* directly negates the first part (*green shirt*). There is a choice between green and red shirts. No such choice exists in the first sentence: not being able to afford the shirt doesn't mean that one doesn't like it.

A For each sentence, determine whether **but** expresses a contradiction (C) to the first part of the sentence or a simple objection (O).

1. I don't shop here, but rather at the supermarket.
2. They like me very much, but they can't hire me.
3. You shouldn't eat cake, but fruit.
4. It's crowded in here, but there's enough room.
5. I don't want you to stay, but rather to leave.
6. He doesn't read newspapers, but magazines.
7. Man's best friend isn't the cat, but the dog.

C

In Spanish There are two words to express *but*: **pero** and **sino**. To express an objection, or to mean *however*, use **pero**. When you want to contradict the first negative sentence, meaning *but rather*, use **sino**.

No me gusta cocinar, **pero** voy a cocinar mañana.

I don't like cooking, but (however) I will cook tomorrow.

No me gusta montar en bicicleta, **sino** montar a caballo.

I don't like riding a bike, but rather riding a horse.

A common expression with **sino** is **no sólo... sino también...**

No sólo como comida mexicana, **sino también** china.

I not only eat Mexican food, but also Chinese.

B Circle the word that stands for **but** in the following sentences. Then say whether it stands for *however* and is an objection (O), or it stands for *but rather* and is a contradiction (C).

1. En general no como pizza, pero a veces sí me gusta.

O, however

2. No me gusta el queso, sino el chocolate.

3. Me gusta leer libros, pero también me gusta el fútbol.

PERO AND SINO

- 4. No me gusta el básquetbol, sino el béisbol. _____
- 5. No leo novelas de aventuras, sino de amor. _____
- 6. Me gusta esquiar, pero este fin de semana voy a nadar. _____
- 7. No tienes que secarte el pelo, sino maquillarte. _____

C Write appropriate sentences linked with **pero** or **sino**.

- 1. gustar / comer bien / preferir / comer barato.
Me gusta comer bien, pero prefiero comer barato.
- 2. no querer / comer / hamburguesas / ensalada

- 3. no pensar / almorzar / a las doce / a la una

- 4. no sólo / ir a / almorzar en casa / también / echar la siesta

- 5. querer / comer solo / tener que / comer con mis padres

- 6. no pensar / tomar postre / comer fruta

- 7. después / querer / descansar / ir a / entrenarme

D 1. Fill in the blanks to answer the question *¿Estudias francés o alemán?*

- a. No estudio francés _____ alemán. *I do not study French but German.*
- b. Estudio francés, _____ no alemán. *I study French, but not German.*
- c. Estudio francés, _____ también alemán. *I study French, but also German.*

2. Out of the three answers, in only one is German studied *instead of* French. Which one is it? Did you translate it as **pero** or **sino**? Why?