Possessive Adjectives, Stressed Possessive Adjectives and Possessive Pronouns

Possessive adjectives:

1. Possessive adjectives usually are placed before the noun they modify, and they must agree in gender and number with that noun.

2. In Spanish, a possessive adjective must be repeated before each noun it modifies:
example: Mi perro y mi gato viven con mis padres.

3. Since su and sus have several meanings, the forms de él, de ella, de usted, de ellos, de ellas, and de ustedes may be used for clarification when needed:
example: Su padre es profesor > El padre de ella es profesor.

Stressed possessive adjectives:

1. Stressed possessive adjectives are placed after the noun they modify, and they must agree in gender and number with that noun. They are generally used with either the definite article (el, la, los, las) or the indefinite article (un, una, unos, unas).

2. Stressed possessive adjectives are used to emphasize or contrast the possessor.
example: Roberto es mi amigo > Roberto es un buen amigo mío.
example: Las clases mías son por la mañana y las clases tuyas son por la tarde.

3. When the meaning of suyo(a)(os)(as) is ambiguous, the forms de él, de ella, de usted, de ellos, de ellas, and de ustedes are used for clarification.
example: ---¿Este lápiz es de Juan o de Teresa?
---Es el suyo > Es el lápiz de ella.

Possessive pronouns:

1. Stressed possessive adjectives become possessive pronouns when the noun is omitted, just as in English:

	my coat	**mine (my coat)**
	mi abrigo	**el mío (el abrigo mío)**

2. Possessive pronouns agree in gender and number with the nouns they replace, and they are generally preceded by the definite article.
example: ---Mis lecciones son fáciles. ¿Cómo son las tuyas? (las lecciones tuyas)
---Las mías son muy difíciles. (las lecciones mías)

3. Since the third-person forms of the possessive pronouns may be ambiguous, they are often replaced by the definite article + de + the appropriate pronoun:
el/la/los/las + de + él/ella/ud./ellos/ellas/uds.
example: ---Las de Carlos son muy difíciles también. (las lecciones de Carlos)

4. After the verb ser, the definite article is usually omitted if one merely wants to express possession: ---¿De quién es este cuaderno?
---Es mío. (el cuaderno mío)

5. However, the definite article is used with the possessive pronoun after ser to express the one that belongs to me/you/him, etc.
example: ---Estos libros son los míos. ¿Cuáles son los tuyos?
example: ---Los libros que están sobre la mesa son los míos.