

Direct & Indirect Object Pronouns

Direct Objects:

The direct object answers the question:

Who? or **What?**

For example:

Yo hago **la tarea**.

I do the homework. → **What** do I do?...the homework!!! -- "**La tarea**" is the direct object!

Yo compro **el regalo**.

I buy the gift. → **What** do I buy?...the gift!!! -- "**El regalo**" is the direct object!

Yo leo **el libro**.

I read the book. → **What** do I read?...the book!!! -- "**El libro**" is the direct object!

Yo digo **la verdad**.

I tell the truth. → **What** do I tell?...the truth!!! -- "**La verdad**" is the direct object!

In Spanish, we can take out the direct object of a sentence and replace it with a DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUN so that we're not so repetitive.

The direct object pronouns are the equivalent of the English words ME, YOU, HIM, HER, US, IT, and THEM.

For example:

Yo preparo **el desayuno**. → Yo **lo** preparo.

I prepare breakfast. I prepare it.

Ella come **las hamburguesas**. → Ella **las** come.

She eats hamburgers. She eats them.

These pronouns must agree with the nouns they replace in gender, person, and number!!! The Direct Object Pronouns are:

me	<i>me</i>	nos	<i>us</i>
te	<i>you</i>	os	<i>you</i>
lo	<i>him / it / you (usted)</i>	los	<i>them / you (ustedes)</i>
la	<i>her / it / you (usted)</i>	las	<i>them / you (ustedes)</i>

Indirect Objects:

The indirect object answers the question:

To whom? For whom? From whom?

¡OJO! Indirect objects most commonly refer to people and are often joined to the verb by the preposition 'a'.

For example:

Yo entrego la tarea al profesor.

I turn in the homework to the teacher. → **To whom** do I turn in the homework?...the teacher!!!—
"El profesor" is the indirect object!

Yo compré el regalo para Luis.

I bought the gift for Luis. → **For whom** did I buy the gift?...Luis!!!— "Luis" is the indirect object!

Yo leo el libro a los niños.

I read the book to the children. → **To whom** do I read the book?...the children!!!— "los niños" is the indirect object!

In Spanish, we can take out the indirect object of a sentence and replace it with an INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUN.

The indirect object pronouns are the equivalent of the English words ME, YOU, HIM, HER, US and THEM.

For example:

Yo di diez dólares a Juan por el disco compacto. → Yo le di diez dólares por el disco compacto.

I gave **Juan** ten dollars for the CD.

I gave **him** ten dollars for the CD.

María dejó un recado para sus amigas. → María les dejó un recado.

María left a message for **her friends**.

María left **them** a message.

The Indirect Object Pronouns are:

me	<i>me</i>	nos	<i>us</i>
te	<i>you</i>	os	<i>you</i>
le	<i>him/ her / you (usted)</i>	les	<i>them / you (ustedes)</i>

¡OJO! The third-person indirect object pronouns (le,les) are generally used even when the indirect object is expressed as a noun. (Ex.: Yo le compré el regalo a Felipe.)

Placement of Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns:

In most cases, Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns go before the conjugated verb:

Compro la hamburguesa. → La compro.

I buy the hamburger. I buy it.

Lavo los platos. → Los lavo.

I wash the dishes. I wash them.

Dije la verdad a Miguel. → Le dije la verdad.

I told Miguel the truth. I told him the truth.

Pronoun Placement: EXCEPTIONS!!!

1. In constructions with multiple verbs, the pronoun can go either before the conjugated verb or be attached to the end of the infinitive.

- Yo quiero ver la película. → Yo la quiero ver.
Yo quiero verla.
- Voy a dar el libro a ti. → Yo te voy a dar el libro.
Yo voy a darte el libro.

2. Pronouns can be attached to the end of present participles (verbs that end in -ando or -iendo).

- Estoy mirando televisión. → La estoy mirando.
Estoy mirándola.
- Sigo estudiando la psicología. → La sigo estudiando.
Sigo estudiándola.

¡OJO! Note that if you add a pronoun to the end of a present participle, you **MUST** add an accent!

3. Pronouns are **ALWAYS** attached to the end of affirmative commands!

- Hagan la tarea. → Háganla.
- Escriban las respuestas. → Escribanlas.

¡OJO! When attaching a pronoun to an affirmative command, you **MUST** add an accent!

Double Object Pronouns:

Double object pronouns simply means that you use a direct and an indirect object pronoun together in the same sentence!

Ella me dio el libro. → Ella me lo dio.
She gave me the book. *She gave it to me.*

Yo te voy a prestar los apuntes. → Yo te los voy a prestar. / Yo voy a prestártelos.
I'm going to lend you the notes. *I'm going to lend them to you.*

Nosotros te explicamos la tarea. → Nosotros te la explicamos.
We explained the homework to you. *We explained it to you.*

¡OJO! Notice the order of the pronouns! The indirect object pronoun **ALWAYS** goes before the direct object pronoun!!!

Changing LE or LES to SE:

When you have the indirect object pronouns LE or LES before the direct object pronouns LO, LA, LOS or LAS, you **MUST** change the LE or LES to a **SE!!!**

Ellos le trajeron la revista. → Ellos le la trajeron. → Ellos SE la trajeron.
They brought the magazine to her. *They brought it to her.*

Yo le di las revistas. → Yo le las di. → Yo SE las di.
I gave the magazines to her. *I gave them to her.*

Tú les diste el papel. → Tú les lo diste. → Tú SE lo diste.
You gave them the paper. *You gave it to them.*

Ella les trajo los papeles. → Ella les los trajo. → Ella SE los trajo.
She brought them the papers. *She brought them (the papers) to them (the recipients).*