

Direct Object Pronouns, Indirect Object Pronouns, and Double Object Pronouns

Direct Object Pronouns

- The object or person that directly receives the action of the verb is the direct object in the sentence.
- The direct object tells “**what?**” or “**who?**” is *receiving* the action of the verb.
- **Direct object pronouns** replace the direct object in a sentence.

Direct Object Pronouns	
Spanish	English
<i>Singular:</i>	
me	➤ me
te	➤ you
lo	➤ him, it (m.), you formal (m.)
la	➤ her, it (f.), you formal (f.)
<i>Plural:</i>	
nos	➤ us
os	➤ you-all
los	➤ them (m.)
las	➤ them (f.)

- The direct objects **me**, **te**, and **nos** correspond to *me*, *you*, and *us* in English.
 - ☐ **No te creo.** I don't believe you.
 - ☐ **¿Me amas?** Do you love me?
 - ☐ **¿Nos apoyas?** Do you support us?
- The direct object generally follows the verb in English, but *precedes* (goes before) the verb in Spanish.
 - ☐ **Te veo.** I see you.
 - ☐ **Lo compra.** She buys it.
 - ☐ **La tienes.** You have it.
- In the Spanish language, words can be masculine or feminine, singular or plural. Therefore all nouns and adjectives must **agree** in gender (masculine or feminine) and number (plurality or singularity). Direct object pronouns must also **agree** in gender and number with the noun they are replacing in the sentence (*lo/la...los/las*).
 - The direct object **lo** corresponds to a masculine singular direct object of a sentence. **Lo** can mean *it (m.)*, *him* or *you formal (m.)* in English.
 - ☐ **Miguel quiere el libro.** Miguel wants the book.
 - ☐ **Miguel lo quiere.** Miguel wants it.
 - **El libro** is the direct object of the sentence. It answers the question “**What?**” “What does Miguel want?” *The book* is a masculine singular noun and therefore is replaced by the masculine singular direct object pronoun **lo**.

- ***Isabel ama a Oscar.*** ***Isabel lo ama.***
 Isabel loves Oscar. Isabel loves him.

- ◆ ***Oscar*** is the direct object of the sentence. He answers the question “Who?” “Who does Isabel love?” ***Oscar*** is a masculine singular noun (he is a boy, and there is only one of him), and therefore, is replaced by the masculine singular direct object pronoun ***lo***.

- ***Profesor Martínez: ¿Me puede oír?*** ***Estudiante: No, no lo oigo bien.***
Professor Martínez: Can you hear me? Student: No I can’t hear you well.

- ◆ Professor Martínez is speaking to a student. When the student responds, ***Profesor Martínez*** is the direct object of the sentence. This is a formal situation, and therefore, the student responds with the *you formal (m.)* form of the direct object ***lo***.

- The direct object ***la*** corresponds to a feminine singular direct object of a sentence. ***La*** can mean *it (f.)*, *her* or *you formal (f.)* in English.

- ***Margarita come la tortilla.*** ***Margarita la come.***
 Margarita eats the tortilla. Margarita eats it.

- ◆ ***La tortilla*** is the direct object of the sentence. It answers the question “What?” “What does Margarita eat?” ***The tortilla*** is a feminine singular noun, and therefore, is replaced by the feminine singular direct object pronoun ***la***.

- ***Miguel ve a Luisa.*** ***Miguel la ve.***
 Miguel sees Luisa. Miguel sees her.

- ◆ ***Luisa*** is the direct object of the sentence. She answers the question “Who?” “Who does Miguel see?” ***Luisa*** is a feminine singular noun (she is a girl, and there is only one of her), and therefore, is replaced by the feminine singular direct object pronoun ***la***.

- ***Doctora Ortega: ¿Me puede ver?*** ***Paciente: Sí, la veo.***
Doctor Ortega: Can you see me? Patient: Yes, I see you.

- ◆ Doctora Ortega is speaking to a patient. When the patient responds, ***Doctora Ortega*** is the direct object of the sentence. This is a formal situation, and therefore, the patient responds with the *you formal (f.)* form of the direct object ***la***.

- The direct object ***los*** corresponds to a masculine plural direct object of a sentence.

- ***Maria tiene los bolígrafos.*** ***Maria los tiene.***
 Maria has the pens. Maria has them.

- ◆ ***Los bolígrafos*** is the direct object of the sentence. It answers the question “What?” “What does Maria have?” ***The pens*** are masculine plural, and therefore, are replaced by the masculine plural direct object pronoun ***los***.

- The direct object **las** corresponds to a feminine plural direct object of a sentence.

☐ **José lee las revistas.** **José las lee.**
José reads the magazines. José reads them.

- ◆ **Las revistas** is the direct object of the sentence. It answers the question “What?” “What does José read?” *The magazines* are feminine plural, and therefore, are replaced by the feminine plural direct object pronoun **las**.

- When two verbs are used in combination (a conjugated verb followed by an infinitive), the direct object pronoun can be attached to the infinitive or placed before the conjugated (auxiliary) verb.

☐ **Quiero comprarla mañana.** **La quiero comprar mañana.**
I want to buy it tomorrow. I want to buy it tomorrow.

- When an auxiliary verb is **not** used (no conjugated verb, only an infinitive), the direct object is connected to the infinitive form of the verb.

☐ **Antes de hacerlo, llama a tu madre.**
Before doing it, call your mother.

- When used with commands, the direct object is attached to the affirmative command and precedes (goes before) the negative command.

☐ **Tómalo.** **No lo tomes.**
Take it. Don't take it.

☐ **Cómelas.** **No las comes.**
Eat them. Don't eat them.

Indirect Object Pronouns

- The indirect object answers the question “To whom?” or “From whom?” is the action of the verb performed.

Indirect Object Pronouns	
Spanish	English
<i>Singular:</i>	
me	➤ (to) me
te	➤ (to) you
le	➤ (to) him, (to) her, (to) it, (to) you formal
<i>Plural:</i>	
nos	➤ (to) us
os	➤ (to) you-all
les	➤ (to) them, (to) you-all

- The **indirect object pronoun**, like the direct object pronoun, generally precedes (goes before) the conjugated verb.

☐ *Miguel da el libro al muchacho.* Miguel gives the book to the boy. *Le da el libro.* He gives him the book.

☐ *Dije la verdad a mi madre.* I told my mom the truth. *Le dije la verdad.* I told her the truth.

- When two verbs are used in combination (a conjugated verb followed by an infinitive), the indirect object pronoun can be attached to the infinitive or placed before the conjugated (auxiliary) verb.

☐ *Quiero hablarte ahora.* I want speak to you now. *Te quiero hablar ahora.* I want to speak to you now.

- When an auxiliary verb is **not** used (no conjugated verb, only an infinitive), the indirect object is connected to the infinitive form of the verb.

☐ *Antes de hablarle, piensa bien en lo que vas a decir.* Before speaking to him, think hard about what you are going to say.

- When a progressive tense is used (auxiliary verb present), the indirect object may go before the auxiliary or be attached to the participle.

☐ *Estaba hablándoles.* I was speaking to them. *Les estaba hablando.* I was speaking to them.

- The indirect object must be attached to the present participle when it is not used with an auxiliary verb.

☐ *No cambiarás nada hablándole así.* You will not change anything speaking to him/her like that.

Double Object Pronouns

➤ **Double object pronouns** occur when both the indirect and direct object pronouns are used together with the same verb.

➤ Both the indirect and direct object precede the verb. The indirect object comes before the direct object.

☐ ***Miguel me dio el libro.***
Miguel gave me the book.

Me lo dio.
He gave me it.

☐ ***Nos mandaron una carta.***
They sent us a letter.

Nos la mandaron.
They sent it to us.

➤ When both object pronouns are in the third person (*le/les- lo/la/los/las*), the indirect object (*le* or *les*) changes to *se*.

☐ ***La madre dio el juguete a su hijo.***
The mother gave the toy to her son.

Se lo dio.
She gave it to him.

☐ ***Juan contó un chiste a Maria y Miguel.***
Juan told a joke to Maria and Miguel.

Se lo dijo.
He told it to them.

☐ ***Ellos mandaron cartas a sus amigas.***
They sent letters to their friends.

Ellos se las mandaron.
They sent them to them.

➤ Double object pronouns (like single ones) are placed *before* a conjugated verb, or may be attached to an infinitive or present participle.

☐ ***Se la doy.***
I give it to her.

Voy a dár sela.
I am going to give it to her.

Estoy dando sela.
I am giving it to her.

➤ They are always placed *before* negative commands and *after* affirmative commands.

☐ ***No me la de vuelvas inmediatamente.***
Do not return it to me immediately.

☐ ***Devuélvame la cuando quieras.***
Return it to me whenever you want.