

Spanish: Direct, Indirect, and Reflexive Pronouns

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Direct Object Pronouns

me	<i>me</i>	nos	<i>us</i>
te	<i>you (familiar)</i>	os	<i>you (familiar plural, Spain)</i>
lo	<i>you (formal), him, it masculine</i>	los	<i>you (familiar and formal), them masculine</i>
la	<i>you (formal), her, it feminine</i>	las	<i>you (familiar and formal), them feminine</i>

- Direct objects are the receiver of the action and answer the question “who” or “what” in reference to the verb.

Hilda lee **el libro**. Los niños comen **la fruta**. Él compra **la cerveza**.

- If the direct object is a person, a group of persons, or a pet, then the personal **a** must precede it. The words **a** and **el** together contract to **al**.

María baña **al bebe**. Antonio ve **a sus niños**. Yo oigo **a mi madre**.

- The direct object pronoun replaces the direct object noun to avoid repeating the direct object and is placed **before** the verb.

Hilda **lo** lee. Los niños **la** comen. Él **la** compra.

- In the case of compound verb forms, the direct object pronoun may go either before the conjugated verb or attached to the infinitive form of the verb or the present participle. Upon attaching the reflexive pronoun to the present participle, an accent mark must be added to the stressed vowel.

Vamos a ver **a ella**. Alicia quiere ver **a él**. Estoy limpiando **los espejos**.
La vamos a ver. Alicia **lo** quiere ver. **Los** estoy limpiando.
 Vamos a ver**la**. Alicia quiere ver**lo**. Estoy limpiánd**o**los.

Replace the direct object with the direct object pronoun, translating English to Spanish.

1.) Tu primo ve a nosotros. _____

2.) Mi tío visita a mi. _____

- 3.) Ella visita a su amigo hoy. _____
- 4.) Enrique toca la guitarra. _____
- 5.) Sus parientes entienden la situación. _____
- 6.) Tu sobrino cierra la puerta del microondas. _____

Indirect Object Pronouns

me	<i>to/for me</i>	nos	<i>to/for us</i>
te	<i>to/for you (familiar)</i>	os	<i>to/for you (familiar, Spain)</i>
le	<i>to/for you (formal), him, her, it</i>	les	<i>to/for you (plural), them</i>

- An indirect object tells “to whom” or “for whom” in relation to the verb.
Mi madrastra compra la ropa **para mí**. Escribo las cartas **a la revista**.
Mi madrastra **me** compra la ropa. **Le** escribo las cartas a la revista.
- In the case of compound verb forms, the indirect object pronoun may go either before the conjugated verb or attached to the infinitive form of the verb or the present participle.
Voy a cocinar paella **para mi hermano y su esposa**.
Les voy a cocinar paella. Estoy cocinando paella **para ustedes**.
Voy a cocinar**les** paella. **Les** estoy cocinando paella.
Estoy cocinándoles**les** paella.
- The indirect object pronouns must always be used even if the indirect object is stated. Use the preposition **a** to clarify **le** and **les**. Also use **a mí, a tí, a nosotros/as, a vosotros/as** to place emphasis on the indirect object.
Pepe regala flores **a su madre**. Tomas da el dinero **a mí**.
Pepe **le** regala flores **a su madre**. Tomas **me** da el dinero **a mí**.

Replace the indirect object with the correct indirect object pronoun.

- 1.) Mi novio da su tarjeta de crédito a mí. _____
- 2.) Debo leer más libros a mis niños. _____
- 3.) Tiene que limpiar la casa para su madre. _____
- 4.) Vende flores a la gente. _____
- 5.) No dice nada a mí. _____

- 6.) No doy dinero a ella. _____
- 7.) A veces ella escribe una carta a ellos. _____
- 8.) Estamos comprando una pulsera y ese arete para nuestra abuela.

Reflexive Pronouns

me	yo	nos	nosotros/as
te	tú (familiar)	os	vosotros/as
se	él, ella, Usted	se	ellos, ellas, Ustedes

- Reflexive verbs state what someone does “to” or “for” herself or himself.
- Reflexive verb pronouns refer back to the subject of the sentence; they agree with the subject of the verb.
- When talking about parts of the body or articles of clothing, use definite articles such as *el, la, los,* and *las*.
- Reflexive pronouns are equivalent to the English pronouns *myself, yourself, himself, herself, ourselves, yourselves,* and *themselves*.
Se ducha antes de acostarse. Te quitas los zapatos cerca de la puerta.
- Infinitive verbs with *-se* attached are the reflexive form of the verb.
prepararse dormirse darse cuenta de (*to realize*)
- The reflexive pronoun goes before the conjugated verb. In the case of compound verbs and the present progressive, the reflexive pronoun goes either **before** the conjugated verb or **attached** to the infinitive or the present participle. Upon attaching the reflexive pronoun to the present participle, an accent mark must be added to the stressed vowel.

Translate the following sentences from English to Spanish using reflexive pronouns.

- 1.) We comb our hair. _____
- 2.) They wash their hands. _____
- 3.) I wake up early. _____
- 4.) Michael shaves in the morning. _____

- 5.) She sits in the chair near the window. _____
- 6.) You take off your shoes. _____
- 7.) Pam puts on make-up in the bathroom. _____
- 8.) José lays down every day at one. _____

R.I.D.

Reflexive, Indirect Object Pronoun, Direct Object Pronoun

- When there are two object pronouns in a sentence, they will appear in the R.I.D. order: *reflexive, indirect, and direct.*
- Two is the maximum number of pronouns that can occur in a sentence together. The combinations that may occur are *reflexive-indirect (rare), reflexive-direct, or indirect-direct.*
- Keep in mind that object pronouns are used in referring to previously mentioned information in paragraphs and conversations.

Reflexive-Direct

Me lo pongo. <i>I put it on.</i>	Tus uñas son bonitas. <i>Your fingernails are pretty.</i>	¿ Te las pintas a menudo? <i>Do you paint them often?</i>
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Indirect-Direct

Sara me los mandó. <i>Sara sent them to me.</i>	Me lo dijo. <i>She said it to me.</i>	Te las venden. <i>They sell them to you.</i>
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- If both the direct and indirect object pronouns occur together in the third person (*lo, la, los, las – le, les*), then change the indirect object pronoun to **se**.

Manolo le vendió el carro a Gloria. Manolo se lo vendió.	Lucas les regaló las flores a Los Garcia. Él se las regaló.
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- In sentences using compound verbs, the same order, R.I.D., applies in the placement of the pronouns. The object pronouns may either be placed before the conjugated verb or attached to the infinitive.

Translate from English to Spanish using the correct object pronouns.

- 1.) We bought them for her. _____
- 2.) I wrote it for him. _____

3.) They have to make them for the girls. _____

4.) He wants to read it to us. _____

5.) Mrs. Iglesias loves her dogs. _____

6.) Why do you give them to me? _____