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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct Object Pronouns</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
<th>English</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Singular:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>me</td>
<td>me</td>
<td>me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>te</td>
<td>you</td>
<td>you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lo</td>
<td>him, it (m.), you formal (m.)</td>
<td>her, it (f.), you formal (f.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>la</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Plural:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>nos</td>
<td>us</td>
<td>you-all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>os</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>los</td>
<td></td>
<td>them (m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>las</td>
<td></td>
<td>them (f.)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

- 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 compara. 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 lo quiere.
      Miguel wants the book. 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.

- 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.


- Professor Martinez is speaking to a student. When the student responds, Professor Martinez 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.

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

Margarita come la tortilla.  Margarita la come.

- La tortilla is the direct object of the sentence. It answers the question “What?” “What does Margarita eat?” La 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.

- 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 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.

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

- *José lee las revistas.*
  José reads the magazines.
  *José las lee.*
  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.*
    I want to buy it tomorrow.
  - *La quiero comprar mañana.*
    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.

  - *Tóma lo.*
    Take it.
  - *No lo tomes.*
    Don’t take it.

  - *Cómelas.*
    Eat them.
  - *No las comes.*
    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.

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<td>(to) me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>te</td>
<td>✅</td>
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<td>✅</td>
<td>(to) them, (to) you-all</td>
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The indirect object pronoun, like the direct object pronoun, generally precedes (goes before) the conjugated verb.

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

- Dije la verdad a mi madre. 
  Le dije la verdad. 
  I told my mom the truth. 
  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. 
  Te quiero hablar ahora. 
  I want speak to you now. 
  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. 
  Les estaba hablando. 
  I was speaking to them. 
  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

 оформленные двойными объектными местоимениями

- 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 dárse la. I am going to give it to her.
    Estoy dándose la. 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.