

Pronouns

Spanish · British English › Spanish

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Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns in Spanish (lo, la, le)

Hello! Today, we're diving into the fascinating world of Spanish pronouns. We'll help you understand how to use direct object pronouns (lo, la, los, las) and indirect object pronouns (le, les). They'll make your sentences sound much more natural and fluent! Ready? ¡Vamos!

Pronouns replace nouns to avoid repetition. In Spanish, we mainly divide them into two groups: direct object pronouns and indirect object pronouns.

1. Direct Object Pronouns (Objeto Directo - OD)

Direct object pronouns answer the questions: 'who?' or 'what?' (¿qué? / ¿a quién?). They refer to the person or thing that directly receives the action of the verb.

Subject Pronoun	Direct Object (Masculine)	Direct Object (Feminine)
yo	me	me
tú	te	te
él/ella/usted	lo	la
nosotros/as	nos	nos
vosotros/as	os	os
ellos/ellas/ustedes	los	las

Veo a María. La veo.

I see María. I see her.

¿Tienes el libro? Sí, lo tengo.

Do you have the book? Yes, I have it.

2. Indirect Object Pronouns (Objeto Indirecto - OI)

Indirect object pronouns answer the questions: 'to whom?' or 'for whom?' (¿a quién? / ¿para quién?). They refer to the person or thing for whom (or to whom) the action of the verb is performed.

Subject Pronoun	Indirect Object
yo	me
tú	te
él/ella/usted	le
nosotros/as	nos
vosotros/as	os

Subject Pronoun	Indirect Object
ellos/ellas/ustedes	les

Doy un regalo a Juan. Le doy un regalo.

I give a gift to Juan. I give him a gift.

Cuento una historia a los niños. Les cuento una historia.

I tell a story to the children. I tell them a story.

Placement of Pronouns

Pronoun (DO/IO) + Conjugated Verb

Verb (infinitive/gerund/affirmative imperative) + Pronoun (DO/IO)

- Pronouns are usually placed **before the conjugated verb**. For example: **Lo** tengo. (I have it.)
- When a sentence contains an infinitive (*infinitivo*), a gerund (*gerundio*), or an affirmative imperative (*imperativo afirmativo*), the pronoun can be **attached to the end of the verb**. For example: Quiero comprar**lo**. (I want to buy it.)
- If you have a construction with a conjugated verb + infinitive/gerund, the pronoun can either go **before the conjugated verb OR be attached to the infinitive/gerund**. For example: **Lo** quiero comprar. / Quiero comprar**lo**. (I want to buy it.)

Watch out for 'leísmo'! In some parts of Spain, you might hear **le** used instead of **lo** for a direct object pronoun when referring to a single masculine person. Remember, **le** is standard only for an indirect object!

Veo a Pedro. Lo veo.

~~Veo a Pedro. Le veo.~~

Pedro is a direct object (who? what?), so we use **lo**, not **le** (which is for an indirect object).

Quick Tip: Think of it like a journey!

Lo/La/Los/Las: This is the noun that **directly** receives the action (like your final destination).

Le/Les: This is the noun that is **indirectly** affected by the action, often with **a** or **para** (like a stop along the way to your destination)!

Part 1 – Choose the correct word

Circle the option that correctly fills each gap.

1. ¿Dónde están mis amigos? No _____.

Where are my friends? I don't see them.

A) los veo B) lo veo C) le veo D) las veo

2. ¿Has dicho la verdad a tu amigo? Sí, _____.

Have you told your friend the truth? Yes, I've told him the truth.

A) lo he dicho la verdad B) le he dicho la verdad C) les he dicho la verdad D) la he dicho la verdad

3. Mi hermano tiene un coche. _____ ayer.

My brother has a car. He bought it yesterday.

A) Los compró B) La compró C) Lo compró D) Le compró

4. ¿Tienes las entradas? No, no _____.

Do you have tickets? No, I don't have them.

- A) las tengo B) los tengo C) la tengo D) le tengo

5. La pizza está lista. Podemos _____.

The pizza is ready. We can eat it.

- A) comerle B) comerla C) comerlas D) comerlo

6. Escribe a tus padres. _____.

Write to your parents. Write to them.

- A) Escríbeles B) Escríbelos C) Escríbelas D) Escríbele

7. Quiero comprar un coche. Quiero _____.

I want to buy a car. I want to buy it.

- A) comprarle B) comprarla C) comprarlos D) comprarlo

8. Quiero beber un zumo. Quiero _____.

I want to drink juice. I want to drink it.

- A) beberlo B) beberlos C) beberla D) beberle

Part 2 – Fill in the gap

Write the missing word or phrase on the line.

1. ¿Vas a escribir a tus abuelos? Sí, _____.

Are you going to write to your grandparents? Yes, I'm going to write to them.

2. Los niños juegan. _____ desde la ventana.

The children are playing. I can see them from the window.

3. Necesito una silla. Necesito _____.

I need a chair. I have to buy it.

4. Me gustan las fresas. Siempre _____.

I like strawberries. I always eat them.

5. Di a tu jefe la verdad. _____.

Tell your boss the truth. Tell him.

6. Mi hermano tiene un coche. _____ ayer.

My brother has a car. He bought it yesterday.

Part 3 – Translate

Write each word in Spanish on the line.

1. her › _____

2. to him › _____

3. them (feminine) › _____

4. it › _____

5. them › _____

6. to them › _____

Part 4 – Match the pairs

Write the letter of the matching translation next to each term.

Term		Translation	
1.	la	A	to him
2.	los	B	them (feminine)
3.	les	C	them
4.	las	D	it
5.	lo	E	her
6.	le	F	to them

Answer Key

Part 1 – Choose the correct word

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. A) los veo | 5. B) comerla |
| 2. B) le he dicho la verdad | 6. A) Escríbeles |
| 3. C) Lo compró | 7. D) comprarlo |
| 4. A) las tengo | 8. A) beberlo |

Part 2 – Fill in the gap

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 1. les voy a escribir | 4. las como |
| 2. Los veo | 5. Dile |
| 3. comprarla | 6. Lo compró |

Part 3 – Translate

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| 1. la | 4. lo |
| 2. le | 5. los |
| 3. las | 6. les |

Part 4 – Match the pairs

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 1. E (her) | 4. B (them (feminine)) |
| 2. C (them) | 5. D (it) |
| 3. F (to them) | 6. A (to him) |