

(Los Pronombres de Objeto Directo, Indirecto y Doble)

Direct, Indirect, and Double Object Pronouns in Spanish

(Los Pronombres de Objeto Directo, Indirecto y Doble)

Spanish uses object pronouns to replace nouns that receive the action of a verb. By substituting these nouns with pronouns, speakers can avoid repetition and make sentences flow more naturally. Direct, indirect, and double object pronouns each play a specific role in showing **who** or **what** is affected by the action—allowing communication to be clearer, smoother, and more efficient.

1) What Is an Object Pronoun?

An **object pronoun** replaces a **noun** that receives the action of the verb.

English

I see María → I see **her**.

He gives Juan a gift → He gives **him** a gift.

Spanish

Veo a María → **La** veo.

Da un regalo a Juan → **Le** da un regalo.

2) Direct Object Pronouns (DOPs)

(Los Pronombres de Objeto Directo)

The **direct object** answers the question:

What? or **Whom?** is directly affected by the action.

English Pronoun	Spanish DOP	Example	Translation
me	me	Él me ve.	He sees me.
you (familiar)	te	Yo te llamo.	I call you.
him / it / you (formal)	lo	Ella lo conoce.	She knows him/it.
her / it / you (formal)	la	Yo la veo.	I see her/it.
us	nos	Ellos nos ayudan.	They help us.
you all (Spain)	os	Nosotros os vemos.	We see you all.
them / you all	los / las	Yo los invito.	I invite them.

Examples:

- *Compro el libro → Lo compro. → I buy it.*
- *Miro a las chicas → Las miro. → I look at them.*
- *Nos escuchan → They listen to us.*

3) Indirect Object Pronouns (IOPs)

(Los Pronombres de Objeto Indirecto)

The **indirect object** tells **to whom** or **for whom** the action is done.

English Pronoun	Spanish IOP	Example	Translation
to / for me	me	Ella me da un regalo.	She gives me a gift.
to / for you	te	Yo te envío una carta.	I send you a letter.
to / for him, her, you (formal)	le	Él le compra flores.	He buys her flowers.
to / for us	nos	Ellos nos muestran las fotos.	They show us the pictures.
to / for you all (Spain)	os	Yo os cuento la historia.	I tell you all the story.
to / for them, you all	les	Ella les cocina la cena.	She cooks dinner for them.

Examples:

- *Doy el dinero a ti → Te doy el dinero. → I give you the money.*
- *Compramos flores para ella → Le compramos flores. → We buy her flowers.*
- *Ellos escriben cartas a sus amigos → Les escriben cartas. → They write to their friends.*

4) Placement of Object Pronouns

A. Before a Conjugated Verb

- *Te veo. → I see you.*
- *Nos ayudan. → They help us.*

- *Le doy el libro.* → I give him the book.

B. Attached to an Infinitive

- *Voy a llamarte.* → I'm going to call you.
- *Quiero verlo.* → I want to see him/it.
- *Necesitamos ayudarlos.* → We need to help them.

C. Attached to a Gerund (**Present Progressive**)

- *Estoy escribiéndole una carta.* → I'm writing him a letter.
- *Estamos escuchándolos.* → We're listening to them.

Accent marks are added to maintain pronunciation:

- *llamándome, escribiéndote, ayudándolo*

D. Attached to a Positive Command

- *Dímelo.* → Tell it to me.
- *Hazlo.* → Do it.
- *Tráeme el libro.* → Bring me the book.

E. Before a Negative Command

- *No me digas.* → Don't tell me.
- *No lo hagas.* → Don't do it.

5) Double Object Pronouns

(Pronombres Dobles)

When a sentence has **both a direct and an indirect object**, [Spanish uses two pronouns](#) together.

Formula:

(Indirect) + (Direct) + Verb

Sentence

Pronouns Used Result

Ella me da el libro. → She gives me the book.	me + lo	<i>Ella me lo da.</i>
Ellos te escriben una carta.	te + la	<i>Ellos te la escriben.</i>
Juan nos muestra las fotos.	nos + las	<i>Juan nos las muestra.</i>
Yo le compro un regalo a mi madre.	le + lo	<i>Yo se lo compro.</i>

6) Rule Change: “Le” and “Les” → “Se”

When **le** or **les** comes before **lo, la, los, or las**, Spanish changes **le/les** → **se** to make pronunciation smoother.

Incorrect	Correct	Translation
<i>Le lo doy.</i>	<i>Se lo doy.</i>	I give it to him.
<i>Les la traigo.</i>	<i>Se la traigo.</i>	I bring it to them.
<i>Le los envío.</i>	<i>Se los envío.</i>	I send them to her.

Even though “**se**” looks like a reflexive pronoun, here it just means “**to him, to her, to them, to you.**”

7) Clarifying “Se” with Prepositional Phrases

Because *se* can mean *to him, her, you, or them*, add a clarifier when needed:

- *Se lo doy a ella.* → I give it to her.
- *Se los escribo a ustedes.* → I write them to you all.
- *Se la explico a mi madre.* → I explain it to my mom.

8) Placement of Double Object Pronouns

Construction	Placement	Example
1. Before a conjugated verb	(IO + DO + verb)	<i>Se lo doy.</i>
2. Attached to infinitive	(verb + IO + DO)	<i>Voy a dárselo.</i>
3. Attached to gerund	(verb + IO + DO)	<i>Estoy dándoselo.</i>
4. Attached to positive command	(verb + IO + DO)	<i>Dámelo.</i>
5. Before negative command	(IO + DO + verb)	<i>No me lo des.</i>

9) Examples Across Tenses

Tense	Example	Translation
Present	<i>Te lo doy.</i>	I give it to you.
Preterite	<i>Se lo di ayer.</i>	I gave it to her yesterday.
Future	<i>Te lo daré mañana.</i>	I will give it to you tomorrow.
Conditional	<i>Nos lo compraría.</i>	He would buy it for us.
Present Progressive	<i>Estoy escribiéndoselo.</i>	I'm writing it to him.
Infinitive	<i>Voy a mostrártelo.</i>	I'm going to show it to you.

10) Practice: Fill in the Blanks

1. Yo _____ (give it to her) → _____.
2. Nosotros _____ (send them to you) → _____.
3. Ella _____ (shows them to us) → _____.
4. Tú _____ (tell it to me) → _____.
5. Ellos _____ (buy it for her) → _____.

Answers:

1. se lo doy
2. te los enviamos
3. nos las muestra
4. me lo dices
5. se lo compran

11) Practice: Translate

1. I write him a letter.
2. We give them the keys.
3. She shows me the photos.
4. I tell it to you.
5. They send it to us.

Answers:

1. Le escribo una carta.

2. Les damos las llaves.
3. Ella me muestra las fotos.
4. Te lo digo.
5. Nos lo envían.

12) Common Pitfalls & Fixes

Wrong	Correct	Why
<i>Le lo doy.</i>	<i>Se lo doy.</i>	“Le + lo” → “Se lo.”
<i>Nos las lo enseña.</i>	<i>Nos las enseña.</i>	Only two pronouns allowed.
<i>Me los gusta.</i>	<i>Me gustan.</i>	“Gustar” doesn’t take DOPs — use IOPs only.
<i>Voy a lo comprar.</i>	<i>Voy a comprarlo. or Lo voy a comprar.</i>	DOPs go before or attached, not after “a.”
<i>Dímelo lo ahora.</i>	<i>Dímelo ahora.</i>	Pronouns attach to command — only once.

13) Quick Reference Summary

Type	Pronouns	Function	Example
Direct	me, te, lo/la, nos, os, los/las	receives action directly	<i>Lo veo.</i>
Indirect	me, te, le, nos, os, les	receives action indirectly (to/for whom)	<i>Le doy el libro.</i>
Double	se/me/te/nos/os + lo/la/los/las	replaces both D.O. and I.O. nouns	<i>Se lo doy.</i>

Why Object Pronouns Matter

Understanding object pronouns allows learners to:

- Speak **naturally and efficiently** without repetition
- Use **complex, fluent sentence structures**
- Connect **gustar-type verbs, commands, and tenses** seamlessly
- Express who receives or performs an action clearly

They’re essential for **real-world conversation** and **accurate comprehension**, especially in intermediate and advanced Spanish communication.

Building Proficiency for World Language Learners: 100+ High-Interest Activities

Discover over 100 dynamic activities to make world language learning interactive and fun. I wrote this book with some of my favorite activities for educators aiming to build proficiency with high-impact strategies.

[Learn more and get your copy here.](#)

5 Weeks of No and Low Prep Fun

Need quick, engaging activities for your class? This free guide includes **25 no-prep and low-prep ideas** to save time while keeping students excited about learning.

[Download your free copy now.](#)

100s of videos to learn Spanish:

<https://real-life-language.kit.com/b1531a6404>