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Demonstratives and Possessives

¿Cuánto sabe usted?

How Much Do You Know Already?



1. What is the difference between **este**, **ese**, and **aquel**?
2. Which are the three neuter demonstrative pronouns?
3. What is the difference in meaning between **ese** and **aquel**?
4. Name the short and long possessive adjective forms for **tú**.
5. How do you say *These are my keys* in Spanish?

The Demonstratives

Demonstrative Adjectives

Adjetivos demostrativos

In Spanish there are three demonstrative adjectives that point out a person or an object. Each one has four different forms that must agree in number and gender with the nouns they modify. Notice how the word groups refer to three different locations:

This/These (<i>near the speaker</i>)		
	MASCULINE	FEMININE
Singular	este	esta
Plural	estos	estas

That/Those (near the person spoken to)		
	MASCULINE	FEMININE
Singular	ese	esa
Plural	esos	esas

That/Those (away from the speaker and the person spoken to)		
	MASCULINE	FEMININE
Singular	aquel	aquella
Plural	aquellos	aquellas

Demonstrative adjectives generally precede the noun. Again, notice the location words:

¿De quién es este lápiz? (aquí)

Whose pencil is this? (here)

¿De quién es ese lápiz? (ahí)

Whose pencil is that? (there)

¿De quién es aquel lápiz? (allí)

Whose pencil is that? (over there)

TIP

The word **ese** sometimes follows a noun in a sentence to express a feeling of disgust or contempt:

¿Por qué compraste el carro ese?

Why did you buy that car?



LA PRÁCTICA 1

Rewrite each sentence with the demonstrative adjective in the plural form:

- ¿Dónde vive este chico? **¿Dónde viven estos chicos?**
- Esta silla está rota. _____
- Creo que aquel pájaro es un cuervo. _____
- ¿Quién compró esa galleta? _____
- Este avión tiene problemas. _____
- Subieron aquella montaña. _____
- Apagaré esta luz. _____
- ¿Cuánto cuesta ese maletín? _____
- Aquel disco compacto no funciona. _____
- Tráigame esa salchicha. _____

Demonstrative Pronouns

Pronombres demostrativos

A demonstrative pronoun takes the place of the object or person that is being identified. They are often translated as *this one*, *that one*, *these ones*, and *those ones*. In Spanish, demonstrative pronouns have the same forms as demonstrative adjectives, but include accent marks over each stressed vowel:

This One/Those Ones (<i>near the speaker</i>)		
	MASCULINE	FEMININE
Singular	éste	ésta
Plural	éstos	éstas

That One/Those Ones (<i>near the person spoken to</i>)		
	MASCULINE	FEMININE
Singular	ése	ésa
Plural	esos	esas

That One/Those Ones (<i>away from the speaker and the person spoken to</i>)		
	MASCULINE	FEMININE
Singular	aquél	aquélla
Plural	aquéllos	aquéllas

Notice how these pronouns can stand alone, and do not precede nouns like demonstrative adjectives do:

Éste es mi libro y ése es su libro.

This (one) is my book and that (one) is his book.

Éstos son más caros que aquéllos.

These (ones) are more expensive than those (ones).

¿Prefieres ésta o aquélla?

Do you prefer this (one) or that (one)?

There are also three neuter demonstrative pronouns in Spanish—all ending in **-o** and without accent marks—**esto**, **eso**, and **aquello**. They are used in place of statements, concepts, ideas, or situations:

No entiendo esto.

I don't understand this.

Eso es todo.

That's it.

Quisiéramos hablar de aquello.

We would like to talk about that.

Neuter demonstratives are sometimes followed by **de** to express the English phrase *This or that matter concerning...*:

Esto del Sr. Porras es una tragedia.

This matter concerning Mr. Porras is a tragedy.

Eso de ahorrar dinero me interesa mucho.

That matter concerning saving money interests me.



LA PRÁCTICA 2

Change each English phrase to a demonstrative pronoun in Spanish:

1. Me gustó más (*this book*). éste
 2. Mire (*that tree over there*). _____
 3. (*This item*) es delicioso. _____
 4. Prefieren (*this house*) más que ésa. _____
 5. (*That over there*) fue horrible. _____
 6. ¿Y (*those papers*)? _____
 7. Deme (*that spoon over there*). _____
 8. (*That*) es muy importante. _____
 9. (*This matter*) de tu familia me amarga. _____
 10. ¿Para qué son (*these coins*)? _____
-

The Possessives

Possessive Adjectives

Adjetivos posesivos

Unlike English, possessive adjectives in Spanish agree in number and gender with the nouns they modify. Notice how the **nosotros** and **vosotros** have four forms each while all the others have only two:



SHORT-FORM POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

(yo)	mi/mis	(my)
(tú)	tu/tus	(your: sing. inf.)
(él, ella, Ud.)	su/sus	(his, her, its, their, your: sing. form.)
(nosotros)	nuestro/nuestros nuestra/nuestras	(our)
(vosotros)	vuestro/vuestros vuestra/vuestras	(your: pl. inf.)
(ellos, ellas, Uds.)	su/sus	(their, your: pl. form.)

EJEMPLOS

Yo perdí mis lentes de sol.

I lost my sunglasses.

Nuestra vecina es muy simpática.

Our neighbor is nice.

¿Has tomado tus vitaminas?

Have you taken your vitamins?

If a distinction is needed between *his*, *her*, *its*, *their*, or *your*, Spanish clarifies by using the construction **de + pronoun**:

¿Qué quieres, el número de él o de ella?

What do you want, his number or hers?

Long-form possessive adjectives are used to further contrast one possessor from another. Notice how the definite articles precede and the adjectives follow the nouns being modified:

LONG-FORM POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES		
(yo)	el cuaderno mío los lápices míos la pluma mía las tijeras mías	(<u>my</u> notebook, not yours) (<u>my</u> pencil, not theirs) (<u>my</u> pen, not hers) (<u>my</u> scissors, not his)
(tú)	tuyo/a/os/as	(your: sing. inf.)
(él, ella, Ud.)	suyo/a/os/as	(his, her, its, their, your: sing. form.)
(nosotros)	nuestro/a/os/as	(our)
(vosotros)	vuestro/a/os/as	(your: pl. inf.)
(ellos, ellas, Uds.)	suyo/a/os/as	(their, your: pl. form.)

EJEMPLOS

¿Dónde está el carro tuyo? Where is your car?
Me prestó la tarjeta suya. He loaned me his card.
Es el refrigerador mío. It's my refrigerator.

The long-form possessive adjective may also be used with the indefinite article:

Fuimos a una clase tuya. We went to a class of yours.

When deciding the gender and number of a possessive adjective in Spanish, simply look at the object possessed instead of the possessor:

Ella salió con sus amigos. She left with her friends.

Los paquetes no tienen etiqueta. No sé si éstos son de Uds. o de ellos.
 The packages don't have labels. I don't know if these are yours or theirs.



LA PRÁCTICA 3

Follow the pattern as you fill in the blanks:

	Short-form	Long-form
1. (él / camisa)	su camisa	la camisa <u>suya</u>
2. (tú / zapatos)		
3. (nosotras / falda)		

4. (ellas / medias) _____
5. (Ud. / suéter) _____
6. (yo / pantalones) _____
7. (Uds. / guantes) _____
8. (ellos / botas) _____
9. (ella / cinturón) _____
10. (nosotros / gorras) _____

Possessive Pronouns

Pronombres posesivos

A possessive pronoun not only expresses possession, but also takes the place of a noun. Possessive pronouns are formed by combining the definite article with the long-form possessive adjective. Note how they must agree with the item possessed:

Tengo mis papas fritas, pero no tienes las tuyas.

I have my french fries, but you don't have yours.

Querían prestarnos su estéreo porque el mío no estaba funcionando.

They wanted to loan us their stereo because mine wasn't working.

Los boletos suyos costaron mucho más que los nuestros.

Your tickets cost much more than ours.

If the sentence uses forms of **ser** and expresses only possession, the definite article can be omitted entirely after the verb:

Ese perro es mío.

That dog is mine.

Las muñecas son nuestras.

The dolls are ours.

Es hermana suya.

It's a sister of hers.

TIP

By combining the neuter pronoun **lo** with the masculine singular of the long-form possessive, a neuter possessive pronoun is created.

Lo nuestro ya está pagado.

Our portion is already paid.

¿Qué pasó con lo suyo?

What happened to his part?

Espero que encuentren lo tuyo.

I hope they find your stuff.



LA PRÁCTICA 4

Replace the underlined words with a possessive pronoun:

1. Ese país es más grande que nuestro país.

Ese país es más grande que el nuestro.

2. Tu computadora tiene más memoria que mi computadora.

3. Mi hijo es más alto que su hijo.

4. Ella respeta mis opiniones más que las opiniones de Uds.

5. Sus amigas parecen ser más fieles que nuestras amigas.

6. Tengo el número de él pero no tengo el número de ella.

7. Aquella bicicleta cuesta mucho más que tu bicicleta.

8. ¿Quieres ver mis formularios o sus formularios?

9. Mis hermanos son tan valientes como tus hermanos.

10. Tus gatos duermen menos que mis gatos.

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Personal Pronouns

¿Cuánto sabe usted?

How Much Do You Know Already?



1. Name the subject and object pronouns for the 1st person (sing.) in Spanish.
2. How do you say *He gave them to us* in Spanish?
3. Fill in the correct indirect pronoun: **No ___ dije la historia a ella.**
4. What is the difference in meaning between **Me gusta** and **Le gustan**?
5. What does **Se la dan de ricos** mean?

The Subject Pronouns

Forming and Using Subject Pronouns

Formación y uso de los pronombres personales de sujeto

Notice how the personal subject pronouns in Spanish are different from those in English. For example, since Spanish has both a formal (**usted**) and an informal (**tú**) manner of address, there are four words that express the English pronoun *you*. The word **vosotros**, however, is generally used in Spain, while **ustedes** refers to *you*, plural, in Latin America:

SUBJECT PRONOUNS			
SINGULAR		PLURAL	
yo	(I)	nosotros/ as	(we)
tú	(you: sing. inf.)	vosotros/ as	(you: pl. inf.)
él	(he)	ellos	(they, masc.)
ella	(she)	ellas	(they, fem.)
usted/ Ud.	(you: sing. form.)	ustedes/ Uds.	(you: pl. form.)

EJEMPLOS

Yo no sé.

I don't know.

Ella me dijo.

She told me.

¿Cómo están Uds.?

How are you (guys)?

In Spanish, the subject pronouns are often omitted in normal conversation, because the context and verb endings indicate both the person and the number of whoever is involved:

(Yo) Le pregunté a Marcos pero (él) no me contestó.

I asked Marcos, but he didn't answer me.

(Uds.) Vengan mañana a las seis e (nosotros) iremos juntos.

You guys come tomorrow at six and we'll go together.

However, subject pronouns may be added for emphasis or to make the meaning clear:

Soy yo.

It is I.

Tú lo hiciste.

You did it.

Ella le invitó a él.

She invited him.

Notice how **él**, **ella**, **ellos**, and **ellas** may sometimes refer to things as well as people. Here they are used as objects of a preposition:

Traje mi computadora, pero no tengo los cables para ella.

I brought my computer, but I don't have the cables for it.

Recibí mil lápices por correo, y no sé que hacer con ellos.

I received 1000 pencils by mail, and I don't know what to do with them.

Usted (abbreviated **Ud.** or **Vd.**) is known as the polite, respectful, or courteous form in Spanish, and it is often used to address those who are older or have a higher social status in society. It is also used when addressing new acquaintances or strangers. It is the way children are trained to address adults, and the way professionals address each other in businesses or at government offices.

In contrast, the familiar or informal **tú** form is generally used at home, on the job, in public, or at social gatherings when addressing friends, co-workers, relatives, and younger children. It is also the way one addresses a house pet or a deity in prayer.





LA PRÁCTICA 1

Replace the underlined words with the correct subject pronoun:

1. Toda la clase y yo corríamos. Nosotros
2. Sandra se fue. _____
3. Ud. y Alejandro no pueden entrar. _____
4. Mis amigas comen mucho. _____
5. San Paulo lo dijo. _____
6. El presidente y yo conversamos. _____
7. Los muchachos en el cine gritaban. _____
8. ¿Es española Chila? _____
9. Usted y yo hemos tomado café. _____
10. Los soldados se perdieron. _____

Fill in the missing subject pronouns in this chart, along with the English translations of each phrase:

11. Soy yo (I am)
12. Eres _____ ()
13. Es _____ () _____ () _____ ()
14. Somos _____ / _____ ()
15. Sois _____ / _____ ()
16. Son _____ () _____ () _____ ()

The Prepositional Pronouns

Forming and Using Prepositional Pronouns

Formación y uso del complemento con preposición en pronombres personales

Spanish personal pronouns generally have the same form when used as objects of a preposition as when used as subjects of a sentence. The only difference is that **mí** and **ti** replace **yo** and **tú** after most prepositions.

El dinero es para . . . (The money is for . . .)			
SINGULAR		PLURAL	
mí	(me)	nosotros/as	(us)
ti	(you: sing. inf.)	vosotros/as	(you: pl. inf.)
él	(him)	ellos	(them, masc.)
ella	(her)	ellas	(them, fem.)
usted/ Ud.	(you: sing. form.)	ustedes/Uds.	(you: pl. form.)

EJEMPLOS

No te vayas sin **mí**.

Don't leave without me.

Se sentó detrás de **ti**.

She sat behind you.

Hablaría con **él**.

I would speak with him.

Llegaron antes de **ellas**.

They arrived before them.

Vivía lejos de **nosotros**.

He used to live far from us.

When **mí** and **ti** are used as objects of the preposition **con**, they are joined together to form a single word:

con + mí = conmigo

¿Quieres sentarte conmigo?

Do you want to sit with me?

con + ti = contigo

No podemos jugar contigo.

We cannot play with you.

Although it is not as common, the word **consigo** is used when the subject of the verb is the same as the object of **con**. It means *with himself, with herself, with itself, with yourself, or with themselves*:

Ella se la llevó consigo.

She took it along with her (self).

Los niños están contentos consigo mismos.

The children are happy with themselves.

In place of prepositional pronouns, however, the subject pronouns are used after the prepositions **según** (according to), **salvo**, **menos**, or **excepto** (except), **entre** (between), and **como** (like):

Mi hijo habla como yo.

My son talks like me.

Todos se fueron menos tú.

Everyone left except you.

No había nada entre tú y yo.

There was nothing between you and me.

In fact, **yo** and **tú** replace **mí** and **tí** with any preposition whenever they follow the word **y** (and):

Preparamos comida para Nelo y tú.

We prepared food for Nelo and you.

Trabajarán sin él, ella y yo.

You'll work without him, her, and me.



LA PRÁCTICA 2

Translate the underlined English words into Spanish:

1. Las cápsulas en la botella son para her. ella
2. Su oficina está cerca de me. _____
3. Viven delante de us. _____
4. Compré el paquete y lo traje with me. _____
5. Según you: sing. inform., estoy equivocado. _____
6. Hicimos el trabajo sin him. _____
7. No iré with you: sing. inf. _____
8. Todos lo vieron excepto me. _____
9. Estaba escrito por you: pl. form. _____
10. Había argumento entre ella y me. _____

Using Direct Objects and the Personal *a*

Uso de la preposición a en complementos directos

A direct object noun in Spanish and English receives the action of the verb directly. In other words, the direct object is acted upon by the subject of a sentence:

Juan vendió su carro.
SUBJECT VERB DIRECT OBJECT

Juan sold his car.

Generally speaking, if the direct object is an object, it simply follows the verb:

No vimos el desfile.

We didn't see the parade.

¿Pagaste la cuenta?

Did you pay the bill?

Han comido las galletas.

They have eaten the cookies.

If, however, the direct object noun refers to a specific person or group, then the noun is preceded by the personal preposition *a*. Note that it has no English translation:

Estamos buscando a tu hermano.

We're looking for your brother.

La Sra. Jones enseña a los estudiantes.

Mrs. Jones teaches the students.

La chica le ayudaba a su amiga.

The girl was helping her friend.

The personal *a* precedes any noun or pronoun that refers to people:

nadie
(no one)

No buscamos a nadie.
We're not looking for anyone. (We're looking for no one.)

alguien
(someone)

Esperaba a alguien en frente del mercado.
He was waiting for someone in front of the market.

todos
(all)

¿Escuchaste a todos los estudiantes?
Did you hear all the students?

The personal *a* is used with most proper nouns, which include the names of places or personalized things:

Visité a Margarita.

I visited Margarita.

Escuchamos al Dr. Córdova.

We listened to Dr. Córdova.

No conozco a Brasil.

I am not familiar with Brazil.

The personal *a* is also used with prepositional pronouns in sentences that include object pronouns that refer to people:

Lo mandé a la pescadería.

She sent him to the fish store.

Le dijo a ella.

He told her.

However, when the direct object noun refers to people in a general sense, the personal **a** is not used:

Necesitamos más jugadores.

We need more players.

Buscan un buen jardinero.

They're looking for a good gardener.

Ese tren lleva mucha gente.

That train carries a lot of people.

TIP

Prepositional phrases with **a** are sometimes used as short responses in Spanish:

Me gusta ir a la playa. ¿Y a ti?
I like to go to the beach. And you?

Sí, a mí, también.

Yes, I do, too.

As a rule, the personal **a** is not used after the verb **tener**:

La señora que vive en la esquina tiene cinco hijos.

The lady who lives on the corner has five kids.

Las nuevas compañías tienen empleados excelentes.

The new companies have excellent employees.



LA PRÁCTICA 3

Translate these sentences into Spanish:

1. I help my friends. Ayudo a mis amigos.
2. She's looking for the cat. _____
3. We called the doctor. _____
4. How many cousins do you have? _____
5. I cannot see anything. _____
6. I do not know anyone. _____
7. They bought Mr. Romo's house. _____
8. She plays with a lot of children. _____
9. We didn't see Rogelio. _____
10. Is he looking for someone? _____

Translate these sentences into English:

11. ¿A quién enseña Ud.?

Who do you teach?

12. Escuchamos a los dos.

13. Martín salía con cualquiera.

14. ¿Encontraste al otro?

15. Quiero conocer al gordo.

16. No invitamos a ningún maestro.

17. ¿A cuántos llevarán en el carro?

18. Abracé a la misma.

19. Visitaremos a la primera.

20. ¿A cuál cliente llamo?

The Object Pronouns

Forming and Using Direct Object Pronouns

Formación y empleo del complemento sin preposición en pronombres personales

Personal pronouns have the following forms when they are used as direct objects of the verb. These direct object pronouns cannot be used independently:

DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS			
SINGULAR		PLURAL	
yo	me	nosotros	nos
tú	te	vosotros	os
él	lo	ellos	los
ella	la	ellas	las
Ud.	lo/la	Uds.	los/las

The primary purpose of any object pronoun is to avoid the repetition of nouns in a sentence. Therefore, direct object pronouns are often used to replace direct object nouns. Like all direct objects, they receive the action of the verb. Observe how they always precede the conjugated verb form:

¿Has visto a **Mario**?

No, no **lo** veo.

I don't see him.

¿Quién llamó a **Sandra**?

Nosotras **la** hemos llamado.

We have called her.

Nadie compró **las** sillas.

Tito **las** habría comprado.

He would have bought them.

Notice how direct object pronouns follow the verb in English:

¿**Me** invitaste?

Did you invite me?

Te conocí el año pasado.

I met you last year.

No **nos** llevará.

He's not taking us.

In Latin America, the direct object pronouns **lo**, **la**, **los**, and **las** generally refer to both people and things, and can be translated as *you*, *it*, *him*, *he*, and *them*. In Spain, however, when referring to people, **le** is often used instead of **lo**:

LATIN AMERICA

Lo buscábamos.

SPAIN

Le buscábamos.

We were looking for him.

Direct object pronouns can either precede the verb **estar** or be attached to the present participle in the progressive tenses. Notice the accent mark on the vowel before the new **-ndo** ending:

Las estamos leyendo.

Estamos leyéndolas.

We are reading them.

Similarly, the direct object pronoun may either precede the verb or be attached to the infinitive in the **verb + infinitive** construction:

Me quieren preguntar algo.

Quieren preguntarme algo.

They want to ask me something.

Direct object pronouns are also attached to the end of affirmative commands in Spanish. Notice the accent mark on the stressed vowel in the longer command forms:

Ponla aquí.

Put it here.

Míreme.

Look at me.

Tráigalo.

Bring it.

Préndalas.

Turn them on.

When a command is in the negative, the direct object pronoun goes before the verb form.

No **lo** llame Ud.
Do not call him.

No **las** coma todavía.
Don't eat them yet.



If ambiguity exists when the direct object pronouns **lo**, **la**, **los**, or **las** are used, the prepositional pronouns are added to clarify what is going on:

La encontré en la casa.

(Who or what did I find?)

La encontré a ella.

I found her.

Los dejará enfrente del colegio.

(What or who will he leave there?)

Los dejará a Uds.

He will leave you guys there.

Sometimes a direct object noun may precede the verb instead of follow it. In that case, the direct object pronoun must be included in the sentence. For example, here is another way to say **Llevo a mi mamá** (I'm taking my mom):

A mi mamá.

DIRECT OBJECT

la

D.O. PRONOUN

llevo.

VERB

Direct object pronouns must also be used when forms of the pronoun **todo** are the direct objects of a sentence:

Lo

D.O. PRONOUN

comieron

VERB

todo.

DIRECT OBJECT

They ate all of it.



LA PRÁCTICA 4

Change the underlined noun to a direct object pronoun and place it correctly in a new sentence. Some may be written two ways:

1. Tengo el mapa.

Lo tengo.

2. No puedo ver a Uds.

3. Está estudiando la lección. _____
4. Alberto compró un paraguas. _____
5. ¿Enviaste las cartas? _____
6. Visitamos a mis abuelos. _____
7. Tiraron piedras. _____
8. Buscaban a Cecilia. _____
9. ¿Has visto las fotos? _____
10. No encontramos problemas. _____

Change these negative commands to the affirmative:

11. No lo traiga. **Tráigalo.** _____
12. No me enseñe. _____
13. No los toque. _____
14. No la apague. _____
15. No nos inviten. _____

Form sentences by changing the words in parentheses to direct object pronouns:

Reconocí ...

16. (a Angela) **La reconocí.** _____
17. (a ti) _____
18. (a Rosa y Eva) _____
19. (a él) _____
20. (los perritos) _____

Follow the example by placing the direct object before the verb:

21. Vendió su casa. **Su casa la vendió.** _____
22. He invitado a Lidia. _____
23. Necesitarán los cuadernos. _____
24. Vimos a tus compañeros. _____
25. No trae su uniforme. _____

Forming and Using Indirect Object Pronouns

Formación y empleo de pronombres de complemento indirecto

Indirect object pronouns generally refer to people, showing to whom or for whom the action of a verb is completed. Like all object pronouns, they cannot stand alone and usually precede the conjugated verb in a sentence:



INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS			
SINGULAR		PLURAL	
yo	me	nosotros	nos
tú	te	vosotros	os
él, ella, Ud.	le	ellos, ellas, Uds.	les

An indirect object receives the action of the verb indirectly. Therefore, an indirect object pronoun either receives action through the direct object or is affected in some other way by the verb:

Te mandaremos la información.

We'll send you the information.

Me dijo la verdad.

He told me the truth.

Le han quitado su licencia.

They've taken away his license.

Remember that indirect object pronouns have the same position in a sentence as direct object pronouns. Note how the English translations may vary:

- Present participles

Estoy pidiéndote una cita.

Te estoy pidiendo una cita.

I am asking you for an appointment.

- Verb + infinitive

Vamos a entregarle la tarea.

Le vamos a entregar la tarea.

We're going to turn in the homework to her.

- Affirmative commands

Enséñeme la evidencia.

Show me the evidence.

In Spanish, an indirect object is joined to the verb by **a**. Remember that a sentence with an indirect object noun usually includes the indirect object pronoun **le** or **les**. For example, *He gave the food to his neighbor*:

Le	dio	la comida	a	su vecino.
INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUN	VERB	DIRECT OBJECT		INDIRECT OBJECT

The **a + prepositional pronoun** construction is added in Spanish to clarify, contrast, or emphasize the direct object pronoun. It is generally placed at the beginning of the sentence:

A ellos siempre les compra zapatos nuevos.

She always buys them new shoes.

A Ud., ¿cuándo le robaron el televisor?

When did they steal the TV from you?

A nosotros no nos ha dicho nada.

He has not told us anything.

Several verbs in Spanish are used regularly with an indirect object pronoun. In the sentence, a thing (the direct object) is usually given to or taken from a person (the indirect object pronoun):

mandar (to send)

mandarle algo a alguien

Le mandaron la bicicleta (a él). *to send something to someone*
They sent him the bike.

robar (to steal)

robarle algo a alguien

Me ha robado el saco (a mí). *to steal something from someone*
She's stolen my coat from me.

exigir (to demand)

exigirle algo a alguien

Te exijo una respuesta (a ti). *to demand something of someone*
I demand a response from you.

Other such constructions include:

comprarle algo a alguien

to buy something from someone

contarle algo a alguien

to relate something to someone

darle algo a alguien

to give something to someone

decirle algo a alguien

to tell something to someone

devolverle algo a alguien

to return something to someone

esconderle algo a alguien

to hide something from someone

enseñarle algo a alguien

to show something to someone

escribirle algo a alguien

to write something to someone

entregarle algo a alguien

to hand over something to someone

enviarle algo a alguien

to send something to someone

explicarle algo a alguien	to explain something to someone
ganarle algo a alguien	to win something from someone
mostrarle algo a alguien	to show something to someone
ocultarle algo a alguien	to hide something from someone
ofrecerle algo a alguien	to offer something to someone
quitarle algo a alguien	to take something away from someone
regalarle algo a alguien	to give a gift to someone
sacarle algo a alguien	to get something out of someone
solicitarle algo a alguien	to request something of someone
traerle algo a alguien	to bring something to someone

Some Spanish verbs take an indirect object in Spanish, but a direct object in English:

preguntarle a alguien	(to ask someone)
A mí me preguntaron.	They asked me.
INDIRECT OBJECT	DIRECT OBJECT

Other examples are:

pedirle algo a alguien	to ask someone for something
preguntarle alguien	to ask someone
recordarle a alguien	to remind someone



LA PRÁCTICA 5

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate indirect object pronoun, and then translate each sentence into English:

- A ella debes dar _____ la dirección. **le**
You should give her the address.
- ¿Qué _____ pidieron a Uds.?

- A mí _____ mostraba todo el dinero.

- _____ solicité trabajo al dueño.

5. A los dos ____ ha regalado libros de música.

6. ¿A ti ____ dijo el secreto?

7. Escríba ____ una carta a tus primos.

8. A nosotros ____ estaba hablando en español.

9. ¿Por qué a mí ____ quitaste el sombrero?

10. ____ han mandado algo a Juanita.

Use the pronoun phrase in parentheses to rewrite each sentence below:

11. Ella me daba muchas flores. (a ellos)

Ella les daba muchas flores.

12. ¿Nos manda los datos? (a mí)

13. Ellos os quitaban la pelota. (a él)

14. Le dijo todos los números. (a ti)

15. Está enseñándoles arte. (a Ud.)

16. Traígame la fruta fresca. (a nosotros)

17. Le mostraron el apartamento. (a ellas)

18. Nos contaba mentiras. (a Uds.)

19. Quiere regalarte diamantes. (a nosotros)

20. ¿Te devolvió el martillo? (a ella)

Gustar and Other Uses of the Indirect Object

Gustar y otros usos del complemento indirecto

Some unique verbs, like **gustar**, almost always take an indirect object pronoun. Observe how these verbs have only two forms that must agree with the subject. There is no matching construction in English:

Gustar (to like)			
SINGULAR		PLURAL	
me gusta	<i>I like it</i>	nos gusta	<i>we like it</i>
me gustan	<i>I like them</i>	nos gustan	<i>we like them</i>
te gusta	<i>you like it</i>	os gusta	<i>you like it</i>
te gustan	<i>you like them</i>	os gustan	<i>you like them</i>
le gusta	<i>he, she likes it</i> <i>you like it</i>	les gusta	<i>they like it</i> <i>you like it</i>
le gustan	<i>he, she likes them</i> <i>you like them</i>	les gustan	<i>they like them</i> <i>you like them</i>

Other verbs that take an indirect object pronoun are:

bastarle a alguien
encantarle a alguien
entusiasmarle a alguien
faltarle a alguien
fascinarle a alguien
hacerle falta a alguien
importarle a alguien
interesarle a alguien
quedarle a alguien
sobrarle a alguien
tocarle a alguien

to be sufficient
to love something
to be excited about something
to be missing something
to be fascinated
to need something
to care about something
to be interested in something
to have something left
to have more than enough of something
to be someone's turn

EJEMPLOS

Te toca a ti.
Nos falta una llave.
A mí me encanta la comida rusa.
¿Les gustan los postres?
A ella no le interesa el amor.

It's your turn.
We're missing a key.
I love Russian food.
Do they like desserts?
She's not interested in love.

When these verbs include an infinitive as the subject, only the third person singular form is used:

A ellos les gusta bailar Salsa.
Le falta limpiar el baño.
Nos encanta viajar por tren.

They like to dance Salsa.
He still needs to clean the bathroom.
We love to travel by train.

The exact translation of verbs like **gustar** may help in understanding their unique forms and usage. It is basically English in reverse, since the direct object is the subject:

Me gusta la hamburguesa.
to me it is pleasing the hamburger
(I like the hamburger.)

Le gustan las papas fritas.
to him they are pleasing the french fries
(He likes the fries.)



Again, the **a + stressed pronoun** construction can be added to these sentences in order to clarify, contrast, or emphasize the indirect object pronoun:

A mí me gusta el verde, pero a él le gusta el azul y a ella le gusta el rojo.

I like the green one, but he likes the blue one and she likes the red one.

Indirect object pronouns are also used with some verbs to communicate special messages. For example, sometimes they are added to unusual **se** constructions that express mishaps or unplanned events:

caérsele a alguien
Se me cayó el vaso.

to drop
I dropped the glass.

acabársele a alguien
Se le acaba el dinero.

to run out of
He's running out of money.

perdérsele a alguien
Se nos perdió la cámara.

to lose
We lost the camera.

With other verbs, when referring to articles of clothing or parts of the body, the indirect object functions much like a possessive in English:

Su madre le quitó el impermeable.
His mother helped him remove his raincoat.

Te lavarán el pelo en la peluquería.
They will wash your hair at the hairdresser's.

In most cases, the indirect object in Spanish simply identifies the one who receives the positive or negative results in the sentence:

Nos han preparado un almuerzo delicioso.

They have prepared us a delicious lunch.

Mi hermanito me rompió la cometa.

My little brother broke my kite.

Sometimes an indirect object pronoun is part of an informal expression. It is often used with the verb **ser**:

Nos es importante ganar el juego. *It's important for us to win the game.*

Me fue fácil hacer los ejercicios. *It was easy for me to do the exercises.*



LA PRÁCTICA 6

Translate these sentences into English:

1. A ella le falta un cuaderno. **She's missing a notebook.**
2. ¿A quién le toca? _____
3. Nos quedan veinte minutos. _____
4. ¿Te sobra mucho trabajo? _____
5. A ellos les encanta Nueva York. _____
6. A Ud. le conviene manejar. _____
7. Me interesa ver la película. _____
8. ¿No te importa el resultado? _____
9. Nos entusiasma la conversación. _____
10. A él le gusta patinar sólo. _____

Double Object Pronouns and Other Special Forms

Pronombres de complemento doble y otras formas especiales

When a verb in Spanish has two pronoun objects, the indirect object precedes the direct object:

Ella **me** **las** **mandó.** *She sent them to me.*
I.O. PRONOUN D.O. PRONOUN VERB

Ellos **te** **lo** **explicarán.** *They'll explain it to you.*
I.O. PRONOUN D.O. PRONOUN VERB

However, if the two pronouns are in the third person—where the indirect object pronoun **le** or **les** precedes the direct object pronoun **lo**, **la**, **los**, or **las**—then the indirect object changes to the word **se**. **Se** is used to prevent the repetition of the “l” sound:

Él se (le) **lo** dijo. *He told it to her.*
Ella se (les) **la** prestó. *She loaned it to them.*

These double object pronouns cannot be split within the sentence:

DOUBLE OBJECT PRONOUNS					
I.O. PRONOUN		D.O. PRONOUN		DOUBLE OBJECT PRONOUN	
le or les	+	lo	=	se lo	(Se lo prestó)
le or les	+	los	=	se los	(Se los prestó)
le or les	+	la	=	se la	(Se la prestó)
le or las	+	las	=	se las	(Se las prestó)

Having several meanings, **se** can obviously create confusion in a sentence if the context is unclear. To clarify, the **a + prepositional pronoun** construction is usually added:

Se los mostraba **a él.** *She was showing them to him.*
No se la traigo **a ellas.** *I don't bring it to them.*
¿Se lo regalaron **a Ud.?** *Did they give it to you as a gift?*

Certain object pronouns in Spanish have other uses as well. For example, the pronoun **lo** may replace any adjective, noun, or complete clause in a sentence. It is often used to simply shorten one's response:

Me preguntaban si los chicos
eran estudiosos, y les decía
que lo son.
They asked me if the boys were studious
and I told them that they are.

TIP

The main difference between direct and indirect object pronouns is that a direct object pronoun is any person or thing that receives the action of the verb directly (e.g., **Yo lo compré**—*I bought it*) whereas the indirect object pronoun is generally a person who receives something indirectly from the subject of a sentence (e.g., **Yo le compré el libro**—*I bought him the book*).

Ya no son vendedores, pero lo fueron el año pasado.

They are no longer salesmen, but they were last year.

Also remember that the object pronouns **la** and **las** are parts of common idiomatic expressions:

Tienen que vérselas con el juez.

You'll have to explain it to the judge.

Ella se la da de famosa.

She always brags about being famous.

Tu papá me la tiene jurada.

Your dad has it in for me.



LA PRÁCTICA 7

Rewrite each sentence to include a double object pronoun:

1. Le quiere prestar la escoba a su tía. **Quiere prestársela.** _____
2. Estoy explicando el juego a los niños. _____
3. Él te vendía los helados. _____
4. Les di el dinero a ellos. _____
5. René le trajo papel. _____
6. Está mandando los muebles a nosotros. _____
7. Les llevé las revistas a Uds. _____
8. Ya le bajaron las maletas. _____
9. Siempre les hacía el desayuno. _____
10. Ella te ha devuelto las joyas. _____

Change these affirmative commands to the negative:

11. Préstemelos. **No me los preste.** _____
12. Muéstrenosla. _____
13. Entrégueselo. _____
14. Tráigasela. _____
15. Cómpremelos. _____