

Direct & Indirect Object Pronouns

Direct object pronouns

Direct object pronouns are used in place of nouns when we know or it is clear to us what the noun already was. For example have you seen my keys can be changed to have you seen them?

Singular	Meaning	Plural	Meaning
Me	Me	Nos	Us
Te	You (singular)	Os	You (plural)
Lo	Him or it when referring to masculine nouns	Los	Them or you relating to ustedes (masculine)
La	Her or it when referring to feminine nouns	Las	Them or you relating to ustedes (feminine)

Word order

Unlike in English, the direct object pronoun comes before the verb. When thinking of how to form sentences that use direct object pronouns you might want to think of it like them have you seen? Rather than have you seen them?

¿Los has visto?

In English this would read like, them have you seen but it's correct in Spanish.

Object pronouns after the verb

Direct object pronouns can also come after verbs when there is two of them present in the phrase. They can also be attached to gerunds

Let's take the phrase, I have to wash the dishes.

We have two verbs here, to have and to wash

We don't change the first verb as it has already been conjugated in to the 'I' form

We add the direct object pronoun to the end of the verb that's still in its infinitive form, so in this case to wash

Therefore, the sentence becomes tengo que lavarlos

I have to wash them

If we wanted to put the pronoun at the start it would become los tengo que lavar

This is because when we have two verbs the direct object pronoun comes before both the verbs if you want to use this form.

Negative conjugations

If you want to say a phrase like I don't play the trumpet, then we always place the 'no' at the very start

No puedo tocar la trompeta

No la puedo tocar

No puedo tocarla

Gerunds

If you want to say a phrase like I'm studying it, estudiar becomes estudiando

However, when we add a object pronouns we need to add an accent ando becomes ándo and iendo becomes iéndo

The whole thing becomes estoy estudiándolo

Indirect Object Pronouns

Indirect object pronouns refer to a person in a sentence, for example I'm going to explain the homework to you, you is the indirect object pronoun as it answers the question to whom or for whom? The direct object pronoun is the homework because it's the thing (noun)

Singular	Meaning	Plural	Meaning
Me	Me	Nos	Us
Te	You (singular)	Os	You (plural)
Le	Him or it when referring to masculine nouns	Les	Them or you relating to ustedes (masculine)
Le	Her or it when referring to feminine nouns	Les	Them or you relating to ustedes (feminine)

Example

Using the example given above, we know that you is the indirect object pronoun as it answers the question to whom? The direct object pronoun is the homework as its the noun.

The indirect object pronoun always comes first

Te la voy a explicar or voy a explicártela

Note that the pronouns can come after the verb but the indirect object pronoun 'te' still comes before the direct object pronoun 'la', also you need to add an accent on the á for -AR verbs, the é for -ER verbs and í for -IR verbs

Using lo, le and their plurals together

In Spanish, we don't like to use le and lo directly after each other because it's too hard to say. If I say, I give him it, it would be wrong to say le lo doy. Instead it becomes **se** lo doy. Equally, if you said I give them these, it becomes **se** les doy

Note

If you are going to put the pronouns behind the verb then you must take both of them. You can't have te voy a explicarla it must be te la voy a explicar or voy a explicártela

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