

Spanish: Direct, Indirect, and Reflexive Pronouns

Direct Object Pronouns

me	<i>me</i>	nos	<i>us</i>
te	<i>you (familiar)</i>	os	<i>you (familiar plural, Spain)</i>
lo	<i>you (formal), him, it masculine</i>	los	<i>you (familiar and formal), them masculine</i>
la	<i>you (formal), her, it feminine</i>	las	<i>you (familiar and formal), them feminine</i>

- Direct objects are the receiver of the action and answer the question “who” or “what” in reference to the verb.

Hilda lee **el libro**. Los niños comen **la fruta**. Él compra **la cerveza**.

- If the direct object is a person, a group of persons, or a pet, then the personal **a** must precede it. The words **a** and **el** together contract to **al**.

María baña **al bebe**. Antonio ve **a sus niños**. Yo oigo **a mi madre**.

- The direct object pronoun replaces the direct object noun to avoid repeating the direct object and is placed **before** the verb.

Hilda **lo** lee. Los niños **la** comen. Él **la** compra.

- In the case of compound verb forms, the direct object pronoun may go either before the conjugated verb or attached to the infinitive form of the verb or the present participle. Upon attaching the reflexive pronoun to the present participle, an accent mark must be added to the stressed vowel.

Vamos a ver **a ella**. Alicia quiere ver **a él**. Estoy limpiando **los espejos**.

La vamos a ver. Alicia **lo** quiere ver. **Los** estoy limpiando.

Vamos a ver**la**. Alicia quiere ver**lo**. Estoy limpiánd**o**los.

Replace the direct object with the direct object pronoun, translating English to Spanish.

- 1.) Tu primo veo a nosotros. _____
- 2.) Mi tío visita a mi. _____
- 3.) Ella visita a su amigo hoy. _____
- 4.) Enrique toca la guitarra. _____
- 5.) Sus parientes entienden la situación. _____
- 6.) Tu sobrino cierra la puerta del microondas. _____



Reflexive Pronouns

me	<i>yo</i>	nos	<i>nosotros/as</i>
te	<i>tú (familiar)</i>	os	<i>vosotros/as</i>
se	<i>él, ella, Usted</i>	se	<i>ellos, ellas, Ustedes</i>

- Reflexive verbs state what someone does “to” or “for” herself or himself.
- Reflexive verb pronouns refer back to the subject of the sentence; they agree with the subject of the verb.
- When talking about parts of the body or articles of clothing, use definite articles such as *el, la, los,* and *las*.
- Reflexive pronouns are equivalent to the English pronouns *myself, yourself, himself, herself, ourselves, yourselves,* and *themselves*.
Se ducha antes de acostarse. Te quitas los zapatos cerca de la puerta.
- Infinitive verbs with *-se* attached are the reflexive form of the verb.
prepararse dormirse darse cuenta de (*to realize*)
- The reflexive pronoun goes before the conjugated verb. In the case of compound verbs and the present progressive, the reflexive pronoun goes either **before** the conjugated verb or **attached** to the infinitive or the present participle. Upon attaching the reflexive pronoun to the present participle, an accent mark must be added to the stressed vowel.

Translate the following sentences from English to Spanish using reflexive pronouns.

- 1.) We comb our hair. _____
- 2.) They wash their hands. _____
- 3.) I wake up early. _____
- 4.) Michael shaves in the morning. _____
- 5.) She sits in the chair near the window. _____
- 6.) You take off your shoes. _____
- 7.) Pam puts on make-up in the bathroom. _____
- 8.) José lays down every day at one. _____

R.I.D.
Reflexive, Indirect Object Pronoun, Direct Object Pronoun

- When there are two object pronouns in a sentence, they will appear in the R.I.D. order: *reflexive, indirect, and direct.*
- Two is the maximum number of pronouns that can occur in a sentence together. The combinations that may occur are *reflexive-indirect (rare), reflexive-direct, or indirect-direct.*
- Keep in mind that object pronouns are used in referring to previously mentioned information in paragraphs and conversations.

Reflexive-Direct

Me lo pongo.	Tus uñas son bonitas.	¿ Te las pintas a menudo?
<i>I put it on.</i>	<i>Your fingernails are pretty.</i>	<i>Do you paint them often?</i>

Indirect-Direct

Sara me los mandó.	Me lo dijo.	Te las venden.
<i>Sara sent them to me.</i>	<i>She said it to me.</i>	<i>They sell them to you.</i>

- If both the direct and indirect object pronouns occur together in the third person (*lo, la, los, las – le, les*), then change the indirect object pronoun to **se**.

Manolo le vendió el carro a Gloria.	Lucas les regaló las flores a Los Garcia.
Manolo se lo vendió.	Él se las regaló.

- In sentences using compound verbs, the same order, R.I.D., applies in the placement of the pronouns. The object pronouns may either be placed before the conjugated verb or attached to the infinitive.

Translate from English to Spanish using the correct object pronouns.

- 1.) We bought them for her. _____
- 2.) I wrote it for him. _____
- 3.) They have to make them for the girls. _____
- 4.) He wants to read it to us. _____
- 5.) Mrs. Iglesias loves her dogs. _____
- 6.) Why do you give them to me? _____