

Direct and indirect object pronouns

In English A **direct object** is a noun that receives the action of the verb. It may be replaced by a **direct object pronoun: me, you, him, her, it, us, you (pl.), them.** To find the direct object, ask *whom?* or *what?*

Stephen played **soccer**. (*Played what? Soccer is the direct object.*)

Stephen played **it**. (*Played what? It is the direct object pronoun.*)

The **indirect object** tells *for whom* or *to whom* the action is performed. The same pronouns are used for direct and indirect objects. To find the indirect object, ask *to whom?* or *for whom?*

David passed **Susan** the papers. (*Passed to whom? Susan is the indirect object.*)

David passed **her** the papers. (*Passed to whom? Her is the indirect object pronoun.*)

A Circle the direct objects and underline the indirect objects.

1. I'm giving all the kids invitations.
2. I invited Lisa.
3. Maybe if I give her enough notice, she will come.
4. I hope she doesn't bring me a present.
5. She is always giving me presents.
6. This time I have a surprise for her.
7. I will send it to her soon.
8. I bought it for her yesterday.

In Spanish The **direct object** also receives the action of the verb and may be replaced by a **direct object pronoun: me, te, lo, la, nos, os, los, las.**

Esteban vio a **Lisa**. (*Lisa is the direct object.*)

Esteban **la** vio. (*La is the direct object pronoun.*)

Unlike English, the same pronouns are not used for direct and indirect objects. **Indirect object pronouns** are: **me, te, le, nos, os, les.** In Spanish, when there is an indirect object, the indirect object pronoun must appear even when the noun is stated.

David **le** pasó los papeles a **Susan**. (*Susan is the indirect object.*)

David **le** pasó los papeles. (*Le is the indirect object pronoun.*)

Object pronouns precede the verb or are attached to the infinitive.

Susan no **le** quiere pasar los papeles a Clara.

Susan no quiere pasar**le** los papeles.

If a sentence has both a direct and indirect object pronoun, the indirect object pronoun comes first. **Le** or **les** become **se** before **la, lo, las, or los.**

Susan no quiere pasar**selos**.

DIRECT AND INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

B Circle the direct objects and underline the indirect objects.

1. Voy a darles regalos a todos los chicos.
2. Aunque es mi fiesta, voy a regalárselos.
3. Mis padres me dicen que no puedo gastar mucho dinero.
4. Está bien, no lo tengo para gastar.
5. Todavía tengo que comprar las decoraciones.
6. Mi hermana me dijo que iba a colgarlas.
7. También necesito preparar la comida.
8. Espero que mis amigos me llamen pronto.

C Translate the following sentences into Spanish, replacing the direct and indirect objects with their pronouns.

1. Eduardo calls Marilena.

Eduardo la llama.

2. Mercedes gives the books to Laura.

3. Gabriela reads a story to the children.

4. My brothers teach me math.

5. My grandmother makes a cake for my brother.

6. I sent Rodrigo a letter.

D Analyze the following sentences:

Clara y Lola venden flores.

Las venden en la calle.

What does **las** refer to in the second sentence? Why do you think an English speaker might misinterpret the second sentence?