

Se + indirect object pronouns

In English When talking about **unintentional events** we sometimes make the object of the verb the subject:

The glass broke. (Instead of *I broke the glass.*)
The book fell. (Instead of *I dropped the book.*)
The board game was left out. (Instead of *I left the board game out.*)

Very often, however, the object of the action stays in the object position:
 I lost **my keys**.
 Janet accidentally dropped **the cake**.

A Underline the **subject** and circle the **verb**. Then mark the appropriate column to tell whether the sentence describes an **intentional (I)** or **unintentional (U)** event.

1. My books (fell).
2. Emma found her keys.
3. I lost my pen.
4. The cake burned.
5. My mom made cookies.
6. The little girl's ice cream fell.
7. My dad's shirt got torn.
8. Brendan did his homework.

I	U
	✓

In Spanish The object also often becomes the subject when talking about or referring to **unintentional events**. The formula is: **se + indirect object pronoun + verb + subject**.

A Laura **se le rompieron** los vasos.
Laura broke the glasses.
 A los niños **se les olvidó** la tarea.
The children forgot their homework.

The **indirect object pronoun** refers to the person affected by the event; the **verb** agrees with the object(s) involved and is always in the third person singular or plural.

Verbs in Spanish that people often use when talking about unintentional events are: **acabar, caer, olvidar, perder, quedar, quemar, or romper**.

In Spanish, the **definite article** is usually used instead of the possessive adjective.
 Se le perdieron **las** llaves.

SE + INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

B Underline the **subject** and circle the **verb**. Then mark the appropriate column to tell whether the sentence refers to an **intentional (I)** or **unintentional (U)** event.

1. Se me cayeron los libros.
2. Carmen llamó a Pedro.
3. A Eva se le olvidó la tarea.
4. ¿Se te quemó el bizcocho?
5. Mi mamá preparó la comida.
6. A la niña se le cayó el helado.
7. A mi papá se le rompió la computadora.
8. Yo dejé el libro en la mesa.

I	U
	✓

C Answer these questions using **se** + indirect object pronoun and the information in parentheses to indicate an unintentional event.

1. Aquí tienes la cuenta... ¿dónde está tu billetera? (yo / perder)

¡Ay, se me perdió la billetera!

2. ¿El bizcocho está listo? (Lourdes / quemar)
- _____

3. ¿Tienes la tarea? (yo / olvidar)
- _____

4. ¿Pusieron Carlos y Tere la mesa? (ellos / romper el vaso)
- _____

5. ¿Por qué está en el piso la comida? (Ricardo / caer el plato)
- _____

D We do not always use the object as the subject to describe unintentional events in English. How would you translate the following sentences? Is there more than one way to translate them?

1. Se me olvidaron las llaves.
- _____

2. Se me acabó la comida.
- _____