
SPANISH INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

These are the indirect object pronouns of the Spanish language:

- **me** (for/to me)
- **te** (for/to you)
- **le** (for/to him, her, you, it)
- **nos** (for/to us)
- **os** (for/to you [plural, Spain])
- **les** (for/to them, you [plural, LatAm])
- **se** (for/to him, her, you, it, them)

WHAT SPANISH INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS ARE

Use Spanish indirect object pronouns to express **for whom/what** or **to whom/what** the action of the sentence is done or performed.

Let's see some examples.

- **¿Has hablado con tus padres?**
• Have you talked to your parents?
- **No, pero les escribí una carta.**
• No, but I wrote them a letter.

What did I write? **Una carta** (a letter). To whom? **Les** (them).

Remember, indirect object pronouns are used to express to whom or what (or for whom or what) something is done.

In the conversation above, **les** is the indirect object pronoun, and it makes reference to the parents.

Object pronouns are used to get rid of unnecessary repetition. Let's see another example!

- **La ensalada está picante.**

- The salad is spicy.

- **Le eché pimienta.**

- I added pepper to it.

What did I add? **Pimienta** (pepper). To what? **Le** (to it).

Le is the indirect object pronoun of the second sentence, and it refers to the salad.

To have an indirect object in a sentence, there must be a direct object. It can either appear in the sentence or be implied.

In the sentence **Le eché pimienta**, **Pimienta** is the direct object, and **le** is the indirect object.

Let's talk about each of the Spanish indirect object pronouns in more detail!

THE PRONOUNS ME, TE, NOS AND OS

The object pronouns **me, te, nos, os** can be used to replace direct and indirect objects.

- **Élla me pinta.** (**me** as a direct object)

- **Ella me pinta un paisaje.** (**me** as an indirect object)

In the first sentence, I mean that I am being portrayed by a painter. The second example means that a painter is making a painting for me.

The pronouns **me, te, nos, os** are not ambiguous. They refer to I, you, we, you [all] correspondingly.

- **Ana te mandó una carta.**

- Ana sent you a letter.

- **Ana nos mandó una carta.**

- Ana sent us a letter.

- **Ana os mandó una carta.**

- Ana sent you [all] a letter.

THE PRONOUNS LE AND LES

The Spanish indirect object pronouns **le** and **les** can be translated into different ways in English.

Le means to you [formal], to him, to her, and to it. Since there's no way to know the meaning of **le** out of context, it is usually accompanied by a little phrase that clarifies its meaning.

• **Sara le prepara la comida a usted.**

• Sara prepares the food for you.

• **Sara le prepara la comida a él.**

• Sara prepares the food for him.

• **Sara le prepara la comida a ella.**

• Sara prepares the food for her.

• **Sara le prepara la comida al perro.**

• Sara prepares the food for the dog [it].

You can use real names or nouns instead of **él** and **ella**.

• **Sara le prepara la comida a Pedro.**

• Sara prepares the food for Pedro.

• **Sara le prepara la comida a su esposo.**

• Sara prepares the food for her husband.

Les means to them and to you [all]. A phrase is usually used to clarify its meaning.

• **Sara les escribe una carta a ustedes.**

• Sara writes a letter for you all.

• **Sara les escribe una carta a ellos.**

• Sara writes a letter for them [a group of men or men and woman].

• **Sara les escribe una carta a ellas.**

• Sara writes a letter for them [a group of women].

THE SPANISH PRONOUN SE

Le and **les** become **se** when they are combined with the direct object pronouns **lo, la, los, las**.

To learn about the usage of **lo, la, los** and **las** visit the post called [Spanish Direct Object Pronouns](#).

Use **lo, la, los,** and **las** to replace nouns. A noun is a word that refers to a thing (book), a person (Noah Webster), an animal (cat), a place (Omaha), a quality (softness), an idea (justice), or an action (yodeling).

- **lo** (masculine, singular)
- **la** (feminine, singular)
- **los** (masculine, plural)
- **las** (feminine, plural)

Use the following pattern to use the indirect object pronoun **se** correctly.



Let's see some examples!

- **¿Le diste la receta a Juan?**
- Did you give Juan the recipe?

- **Sí, se la di.**
- Yes, I gave it to him.

In the example above, **se** refers to Juan, and **la** refers to la receta (the recipe). Let's see another example!

- **¿Les mandaste la foto a mis padres?**
- Did you send the picture to my parents?

- **Sí, se la mandé.**
- Yes, I sent it to them.

In the example above, **se** refers to Juan, and **la** refers to la receta (the recipe). Let's see another example!

- **¿Les mandaste la foto a mis padres?**
- Did you send the picture to my parents?

- **Si, se la mandé.**
- Yes, I sent it to them.

In the example above, **se** substitutes mis padres (my parents), and **la** substitutes la foto (the picture).

INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUN PLACEMENT

Place indirect object pronouns before conjugated verbs, except for imperative statements that are positive.

- **Escribirle**
- To write to her/him/you

- **Escribiéndole**
- Writing to her/him/you

When you have two verbs in a sentence, you can either place the indirect object pronouns before the conjugated verb, or you can attach it to the end of the second verb.

- **Le quiero escribir.**
- I want to write to her/him/you.

- **Quiero escribirle.**
- I want to write to her/him/you.

If you need to use a **direct** and **indirect** object pronoun in the same sentence, use the following pattern: **indirect object pronoun + direct object pronoun**.

- **Me gusta tu camisa. ¿Me la prestas?**
- I like your shirt. Can you lend it to me?

- **Si, te la presto.**
- Yes, I can lend it to you.

VERBS THAT TAKE INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

The following verbs take both, direct and indirect objects.

- **cobrar dinero** (to charge money)
- **comprar algo** (to buy something)
- **decir algo** (to say something)
- **contestar** (to answer)
- **preguntar** (to ask)
- **cocinar algo** (to cook something)
- **contar** (to tell)
- **dar** (to give)
- **enseñar** (to teach)
- **enviar algo** (to send something)
- **hacer** (to do)
- **prestar** (to lend)
- **vender** (to sell)