



SPANISH 101

INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

THE COMPLETE GUIDE



INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS IN SPANISH

LIST OF INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

There are 6 main indirect object pronouns with an alternate 7th:

IOP	English
Me	Me
Te	You (informal you)
Le (se*)	Him / Her / It / You (formal)
Nos	Us
Os	You (plural, Castilian)
Les (se*)	Them / You (plural)

Explanation on Le vs Se:

The pronoun se is only used to replace le or les in sentences with double object pronouns.

In other words, when a sentence contains both third-person direct (lo, la, los, las) and indirect object pronouns, we must use se instead of 'le' or 'les'. This change is made for semantic purposes.

INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS IN SPANISH



Patty le dio una flor a Laura.

Patty gave Laura a flower.

Explanation:

In this example, Laura is positively affected by the action.

INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

Replace the person/thing affected by the verb.

Person	IOP
Yo	Me
Tú	Te
Él / Ella	Le
Nosotros	Nos
Vosotros	Os
Ellos / Ustedes	Les

EXAMPLES WITH & WITHOUT INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

WITH INDIRECT OBJECT

Joe enseña a los niños a contar.
Joe teaches the kids to count.

Charlie compró esos chocolates para mí.
Charlie bought those chocolates for me.

WITH INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUN

Joe les enseña.
Joe teaches them.

Charlie me compró esos chocolates.
Charlie bought me those chocolates.

ORDER OF INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS IN SPANISH

BEFORE THE VERB

- Conjugated verbs.
- Perfect tenses.
- Negative commands.

Ya le regalé esa bolsa.
I gave her that bag.

¡No me cuentes!
Don't tell me!



ATTACHED TO THE VERB

- Affirmative commands.
- Infinitive verbs.
- Gerunds.

¡Dánoslo! Es nuestro.
Give it to us! It's ours.

Voy a contarle a Paco.
I'm going to tell Paco.

Note: Indirect object pronouns are always placed before direct object pronouns.

VERBS THAT TAKE INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

Aconsejar

To give advice

Advertir

To warn

Avisar

To warn / To advise

Comprar

To buy

Contar

To tell

Dar

To give

Decir

To tell / To say

Enseñar

To teach

Explicar

To explain

Hablar

To talk / To speak

Interesar

To interest

Gustar

To like

VERBS THAT TAKE INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

Mandar
To send

Marcar
To call

Mentir
To lie

Molestar
To bother

Pagar
To pay

Pasar
To pass

Pegar
To hit

Prestar
To borrow / To lend

Quitar
To take from

Recomendar
To recommend

Traer
To bring

DIRECT VS INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

DIRECT OBJECT



John los pagó (los boletos).
John pay them (the tickets).

INDIRECT OBJECT



John le pagó a la cajera.
John payed the cashier.

REFLEXIVE VS INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

LE

Subject performs the action on someone.



Le lavé las manos al bebé.
I washed the baby's hands.

SE

Subject performs the action upon itself.



Sandy se lavó las manos.
Sandy washed her hands.

KEY POINTS: INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS IN SPANISH

- Spanish indirect object pronouns are me, te, le, nos, os, les.
- The pronoun se replaces le/les in sentences which also contain third-person direct object pronouns.
- An indirect object is the part of the sentence affected or benefited by the subject's action.
- The indirect object responds to the questions 'for whom' or 'to whom' (a quién or para quién) an action is performed.
- Spanish indirect object pronouns must be placed before the conjugated verb in sentences with one verb, negative commands, or when using perfect tenses.
- Indirect object pronouns must be attached to affirmative commands, infinitives, and present participles.
- The indirect object pronouns always come before direct object pronouns.

LINK TO THIS GUIDE



[Spanish Indirect Object Pronouns 101: The Complete Guide](#)

RELATED GUIDES & RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT

[Practice Quiz: Spanish Indirect Object Pronouns](#)

[Spanish Pronouns 101: Every Pronoun You Need to Know](#)

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