



PERSONAL A IN SPANISH

HOW & WHEN TO USE IT

(AND NOT USE IT)



WHEN TO USE PERSONAL 'A' IN SPANISH

KEY POINTS

- In Spanish, the personal 'a' consists of placing the preposition 'a' before direct objects that refer to specific people or pets.
- The personal 'a' indicates the specific person or animal receiving the action (verb).
- Can be followed by a common or proper noun (names of people or animals).



Buscamos a Luis y a Mary.

We're looking for Luis and Mary.

Ayer llevé a mi perro al veterinario.

Yesterday, I took my dog to the vet.

PRONOUN THAT WORK WITH PERSONAL 'A'

1. The interrogative pronoun 'quién' and 'cuánto'.
2. Prepositional pronouns: 'mí', 'ti', 'ella', etc.
3. The indefinite pronouns 'alguien' and 'nadie'.

[Personal a] + [pronoun]

Estamos esperando a alguien.

We're waiting for someone.

Entiende que Joe la ama a ella.

Understand that Joe loves her.

WHEN NOT TO USE PERSONAL 'A' IN SPANISH

Personal a in Spanish is not required when the direct object refers to a place, thing, or unspecified animal.

[Verb conjugated] + [determiner]+ [noun]

¿Dónde dejaste las llaves?

Where did you leave the keys?

Celia está escribiendo una carta.

Celia is writing a letter.

VERBS THAT WORK WITH PERSONAL 'A'

Acompañar

To accompany

Dejar

To leave

Llevar

To take

Amar

To love

Encontrar

To find

Querer

To love / To want

Buscar

To look for

Escuchar

To listen to

Ver

To see / To watch

Conocer

To meet / To know

Esperar

To wait

Visitar

To visit

VERBS THAT WORK WITH PERSONAL 'A'

Cuidar

To take care / To watch over

Peinar

To comb / To brush



Bañar

To shower



Empujar

To push

Limpiar

To clean

Llamar

To call



Admirar

To admire

Invitar

To invite

Engañar

To cheat / To trick

Saludar

To waive / To greet

KEY POINTS: PERSONAL 'A' IN SPANISH

- The personal a in Spanish is used in sentences with direct objects.
- As its name suggests, the Spanish personal 'a' introduces a concrete person or animal who is receiving the action of the verb.
- It can be used with common nouns (niño, señora, mamá) as long as they refer to specific people or pets.
- The contraction al is the result of combining the preposition 'a' with the definite article 'el'. Use this contraction when the personal 'a' is followed by this article.
- The personal 'a' in Spanish is not used when the direct object refers to places, things, or unknown animals.
- Many Spanish transitive verbs use this grammatical element.

LINK TO THIS GUIDE



[Personal A in Spanish - How, When to Use \(and Not Use\) It](#)

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