

# Direct & Indirect Object Pronouns

**Object Pronouns** There are two kinds of object pronouns; **direct object pronouns (DOP)** and **indirect object pronouns (IOP)**. Before we learn to use them in Spanish, you must first learn to properly identify them in English.

**Direct Object Pronouns** **Direct objects** show who or what receives the action of the verb. They are easily identified by asking who or what.  
 For example;  
 John hit the ball. What did he hit? **The ball.**  
 Ball is the direct object.  
 She kicked me. Who did she kick? **Me.**  
 Me is the direct object pronoun.  
 I bought a car. What did I buy? **A car.**  
 Car is the direct object.

**Indirect Object Pronouns** **Indirect objects** show to whom or what, or for whom or what the action is done. Again they can be easily identified by asking to/for whom or to/for what.  
 For example;  
 He bought supper for her. For whom did he buy it? **For her.**  
 For her is the indirect object pronoun\*.  
 We gave our money to the charity. To whom was it given? **To the charity.**  
 To the charity is the indirect object\*.  
 Sam forged you a sword. For whom was it forged? **For you.**  
 You is the indirect object pronoun.

\*Note for grammarians - In English, a proper IOP comes before the DOP. Thus, these sentences should be "He bought her supper" and "We gave the charity our money". When placed after the DOP as above they are the object of the preposition instead of a true IOP. None of that matters in Spanish.

Here are the Span. pronouns.

Direct Object Pronouns	English	Indirect Object Pronouns	English
<b>Me</b>	Me	<b>Me</b>	to/for me
<b>Te</b>	You familiar	<b>Te</b>	to/for you familiar
<b>Lo (m)</b> <b>La (f)</b>	Him Her It (lo = m, la = f) You formal	<b>Le</b>	to/for him to/for her to/for it to/for you formal
<b>Nos</b>	Us	<b>Nos</b>	to/for us
<b>Os</b>	You familiar pl.	<b>Os</b>	to/for you familiar pl.
<b>Los (m)</b> <b>Las (f)</b>	Them You formal pl.	<b>Les</b>	to/for them to/for you formal pl.

# To properly use object pronouns in Spanish you must apply 3 rules.

## **RULE #1:** Examples;

Object pronouns are placed directly before the verb.

**DOP** - I threw **it**. Yo **lo** tiré.

**IOP** - She sang **to us**. Ella **nos** cantó.

(notice that to/for is included with the IOP in Spanish and need not be added)

**DOP** - We didn't buy **them**. Nosotros no **los** compramos.

**IOP** - You didn't play **for them**. Tú no **les** tocaste.

## **RULE #2:** Examples;

When a **DOP** and an **IOP** are used in the same sentence, the **IOP** comes first. This is known as the **IDIOT** rule - indirect before direct.

I threw **it to you**. Yo **te lo** tiré.

She sang **them to us**. Ella **nos las** cantó.

You didn't buy **me them**. Tú no **me los** compraste.

## **RULE #3:** Examples;

If **le** or **les** comes before **lo**, **la**, **los**, or **las** they change to **se**.

I threw **it to them**. Yo ~~les~~ **se lo** tiré.

She sang **them to her**. Ella ~~le~~ **se las** cantó.

You didn't buy **him them**. Tú no ~~le~~ **se los** compraste.

We give **them it**. Nosotros ~~les~~ **se la** damos.

**OPTIONAL RULE #4:** Used this way, rules #2 and #3 still apply, but you may need to add an accent as noted below:

When used with 2 verbs you may attach the **DOP** and **IOP** to the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> verb.

1. "-ing" verbs always receive an accent on the "-ing" thusly: "-ándo" or "-iéndo". **For example;**

Ella **lo** está tirando. **OR** Ella está tirá**ndolo**.

Tú **me lo** estás vendiendo **OR** Tú estás venié**ndomelo**.

Infinitives receive an accent on the "-ár", "-ér", or "-ír" **if** you use 2 pronouns. **For example;**

Él **lo** quiere tirar. **OR** Él quiere tirar**lo**. (1 pron. = no accent)

Él **me lo** quiere tirar. **OR** Él quiere tirar**ámelo**. (2 pron. = accent)