

## Lesson 05: Indirect Object Pronouns

### Lesson Objectives:

- Students will learn the indirect object pronouns and how they differ from direct object pronouns
- Students will understand how to use indirect object pronouns in a sentence

You may recall from Spanish 1 when you learned *gustar* and other verbs that worked like *gustar*: *encantar* and *molestar* for example. You learned that this verb had to be accompanied with a pronoun to tell to whom the items being talked about were pleasing:

Me gusta el perro. I like the dog or the literal translation: The dog is pleasing to me.

Me gustan los dulces. I like candy or the candy is pleasing to me.

That pronoun: *me*, *te*, *le*, *nos*, *les*, that you used before the verb *gusta* or *gustan* is the indirect object. So you used the indirect object pronouns long before you learned them officially! Now you will learn to use them with other *-ar*, *-er* and *-ir* verbs.

### **El objeto indirecto (the indirect object)**

The indirect object is the person or thing that receives the action of the verb indirectly. For example in the sentence "I give John the book," John is the *objeto indirecto*, since he is indirectly receiving the action of the verb (the book is the *objeto directo*- "What does he give?"- "The book"). The indirect object answers the question "to who/m" or "for what?" In this example: "To whom I give the book?" - "To John."

In English, you can usually re-write a sentence with the indirect object after the prepositions "to" or "for." With the last sentence, for example, it can also be written "The book is given to John." (Notice that the direct object cannot have a preposition without changing the meaning of the sentence. If you said "John is given to the book" it sounds as if John is the object being given, and the book is the object receiving him).

An indirect object pronoun is a pronoun that replaces a direct object. In English, the indirect object pronoun replacing John would be "him" and the sentence with the indirect object pronoun would be: "I gave him the book" or "I gave the book to him."

In Spanish the pronouns for *objetos indirectos* are the same as the pronouns for the *objetos directos*, except for the third person singular and plural:



	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> person</b>	me (me)	nos (us)
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> person</b>	te (you/tú)	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> person</b>	le (you/him/her/it)	les (you/them)

Notice that the third person singular and plural (le and les) refer to both masculine and feminine nouns. Usually if you use le or les you would add "a" plus the person (a él, a ella, a usted, a María, etc.) either at the end of the sentence or before the indirect object pronoun. You may also do this with me, te, and nos. This may seem redundant in English, but in Spanish it is not, especially with a pronoun like "le" which could be taking the place of any third person noun. The following are the forms of the nouns preceded by "a:"

a mí	to me
a ti	to you
a usted/ella/él	to you/her/him
a nosotros	to us
a ellos/as/Uds	to them/you

Note that the only subjects that change after "a" are "yo" and "tú." It is incorrect to say "a yo" or "a tú." These also change after de. It is correct to say "de mí" and "de ti" and incorrect to say "de yo" or "de tú".

If there is an objeto indirecto in a sentence it is required to use the objeto indirecto pronoun, even if the person is specified at the end with the preposition "a." The clarification with "a" is not required, but sometimes useful (as discussed above with "le" and "les"). Let's look at an example:

### **Pedro da el libro a Mario.**

Here you have two objects one direct and one indirect. "El libro" is the direct object, it is directly related to the verb and answers the question "What does Pedro give?"- "The book." You can tell Mario is the indirect object because 1. It is preceded by the preposition "a" and 2. It answers the question "To whom does he give the book" - "To Mario." The placement of the objeto indirecto is the same as the placement for the objeto directo:

Before the conjugated verb with simple and compound participle conjugations:

**Le doy el libro a él.**  I give him the book. (I give the book to him.)



**Le he dado el libro a él.** → I have given him the book. (I have given the book to him.)

With infinitive or gerundio verb structures, either before the conjugated verb or attached to the infinitive or gerundio:

**Te estoy dando el libro (a ti).**



**Estoy dándote el libro (a ti).**

(I am giving you the book/ I am giving the book to you.)

**Te tengo que dar el libro.**



**Tengo que darte el libro.**

(I have to give you the book./ I have to give the book to you)

You can usually tell that an object is indirect in a sentence if it is preceded by a preposition (mostly "a.") A good way to remember is to think about the object having to "go around" the preposition, it is not direct to the verb.

**Watch this video to see how indirect object pronouns are used in action:**



## Grading Rubric:

**To get a 10:** No factual, grammatical (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, wrong word, etc.) or structural errors the first time, or within the first revision. All work is formatted properly, written clearly, properly cites references, and covers all required points and topics; all lesson requirements have been met.

**To get a 9:** You can have 1 or 2 factual, grammatical (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, wrong word, etc.) or structural errors. All work is formatted properly, written clearly, properly cites references, and covers all required points and topics; all lesson requirements have been met.



**To get an 8:** You can have 3 or 4 factual, grammatical (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, wrong word, etc.) or structural errors. All work is formatted properly, written clearly, properly cites references, and covers all required points and topics; all lesson requirements have been met.

**To get a 7:** You can have 5 factual, grammatical (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, wrong word, etc.) or structural errors. All work is formatted properly, written clearly, properly cites references, and covers all required points and topics; all lesson requirements have been met.

**To get a 6:** You can have up to 6 factual, grammatical (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, wrong word, etc.) or structural errors. All work is formatted properly, written clearly, properly cites references, and covers all required points and topics; all lesson requirements have been met.

**To get a 5:** More than 6 factual, grammatical (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, wrong word, etc.) or structural errors. Plagiarism – purposeful or mistaken. Which will lower your final grade for the course (So, be very careful when posting your work!); lack of effort, disrespect, or attitude (we are here to communicate with you if you don't understand something); or 6 or more errors of any kind. Answer in complete sentences; lesson requirements have not been met.

## Assignment:

Answer the following questions:

1. In the sentence, "Yo lo estoy comiendo," ( I am eating it.), is "lo" a direct or an indirect object pronoun?
2. In the sentence, "Te tengo que dar el gato," is "te" a direct or indirect object pronoun?
3. In the sentence, "Mis padres me llaman los sábados."  
(My parents call me on Saturdays.), is "me" a direct or indirect object pronoun?
4. In the sentence, "Paula nos dice la verdad,"  
(Paula tells the truth to us.) is the "nos" a direct or indirect object pronoun?

Fill in the blank with the correct corresponding indirect object pronoun:

5. \_\_\_\_\_ quiero escribir la carta a mi mejor amiga.
6. Yo \_\_\_\_\_ compro una bicicleta nueva para mi hermano.
7. La profesora \_\_\_\_\_ enseña a los estudiantes.
8. La chica \_\_\_\_\_ lee los libros a los niños.

Please re-write the following sentences (making them grammatically correct) adding an indirect object pronoun before the conjugated verb or attaching them to the infinitive to represent the underlined indirect object, just as done in the example:

Maria da el regalo a nosotros .

Maria nos da el regalo.

9. Yo doy el libro a Ana.

10. Sara manda la carta a Olivia. (Sara sends the letter to Olivia.)



11. Tú regalas el perro a mí.
12. Nosotros vamos a recomendar el restaurante a nuestra familia.
13. Yo digo las noticias a ella.
14. Quiero hacer la maletas para mis padres.
15. No dice la verdad a mi hermano.

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