



# Personal pronouns

.19.

A pronoun is used in place of one or more nouns or another word that refers to someone or something previously mentioned. If you have told your friends about your new boss's demanding personality and her love for coffee, they will understand your statement, "I will not make her any!" Your audience will understand that *her* refers to the new boss and *any* to coffee.

The use of pronouns prevents excessive repetition of nouns and reminds your audience who is doing what, how, to whom, etc. Remember that nouns can be part of a subject or of the predicate of the sentence. They function as subjects, direct objects or indirect objects of a verb, or in prepositional phrases. Pronouns take the place of nouns and replace them in their functions as subjects or objects. According to the function or role they play, the forms of pronouns and their names change: subject pronouns, object pronouns, etc.

## Subject Pronouns

Because verb conjugation endings tell who the subject is, subject pronouns in Spanish are usually omitted.

¿A qué hora **comes**?      *At what time do you eat?*

The **-es** of the form **comes** reveals the subject **tú**. Pronouns may be used for clarification, as in the following example:

**Ella sale** ahora y **él no va**.      *She leaves now and he does not go.*

## Forms of the Subject Pronouns

The following chart reviews **los pronombres personales de sujeto**.

Singular subject pronouns		Plural subject pronouns	
yo	I	<b>nosotros/nosotras</b>	we
tú	you (familiar)	<b>vosotros/vosotras</b>	you (familiar)
<b>usted (Ud.)</b>	you (formal)	<b>ustedes (Uds.)</b>	you (formal)
él	he	<b>ellos</b>	they (masculine)
ella	she	<b>ellas</b>	they (feminine)

**Tú** is the familiar form, used with friends, family, pets, and anyone you would treat with familiarity because of age, rank, etc. The **vosotros** form, the plural familiar subject pronoun, is used in Peninsular Spanish (Spain), but not in the Canary Islands. **Vosotros** is used in the same situations as **tú** but in the plural.

**Usted** and **ustedes** are used to show respect throughout the Hispanic world. Often you will see the abbreviations **Ud.** and **Uds.** (or **Vd.** and **Vds.**). Most Spanish speakers, except in Peninsular Spain, use **ustedes** as the plural of the informal **tú**. The context of a message will clarify the intentions of the speaker.

## Uses of the Subject Pronouns

In English, subject pronouns are necessary for identifying the subject of verbs. Spanish verb endings identify the subject in most situations, but it is sometimes necessary or preferable to include the subject pronoun. Use the Spanish subject pronouns when you wish to:

- deliberately underscore the subject.

**Ellos saben** mentir.

*They (m.) know how to lie.*

- emphasize the speaker's message, especially with the verb **ser** or when the verb is understood.

**Ella sí estudia.**

*She does study.*

¿Quién es? **Soy yo.**

*Who is it? It is I.*

—¿Quién quiere un refresco?

*"Who wants a soft drink?"*

—**Yo.** Y **ella**, una limonada.

*"I do. And for her, a lemonade."*

- clarify the subject in cases where the verb ending may indicate more than one grammatical person.

**¡Elías miraba y yo trabajaba!**

*Elías watched while I worked!*

- show respect by addressing a person or persons with the **Ud.** and **Uds.** formal forms. (**Usted** and **ustedes** are also known as the **pronombres de tratamientos, de cortesía o respeto**.)

**Entre Ud.**, por favor.

*Come in, please.*

As customs become more relaxed in many areas of the Spanish-speaking world, it is more usual to address a listener or an audience informally. However, it is still customary to use the **usted** and **ustedes** forms with persons:

- to whom you owe respect because of a title, rank, or age.

Sra. Perales, **dígame**, ¿dónde está su pasaporte?

*Mrs. Perales, tell me, where is your passport?*

- whom you have just met or whom you are unsure how to address.

¿Puede Ud. decirme su nombre? *Can you tell me your name?*

Children and adolescents will often use the **tú** forms as soon as they meet each other.

Remember that in Spanish there is no equivalent of the English subject pronoun *it* in impersonal expressions.

¡Es importante!  
Hace sol pero llueve. *It is important!*  
*It's sunny, but it's raining.*

## ejercicio

## 19-1

¿Cuál es el pronombre apropiado? Escribe el pronombre de sujeto que corresponde al sujeto de las oraciones siguientes.

1. Los astronautas estudian las condiciones atmosféricas. \_\_\_\_\_
2. ¿Estáis contentas en Barcelona? \_\_\_\_\_
3. ¿Viene Juan? \_\_\_\_\_
4. La artista donó tres de sus cuadros. \_\_\_\_\_
5. ¿Salimos? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Viven en esta casa. \_\_\_\_\_
7. ¡Pide la cena! \_\_\_\_\_
8. ¿Quieren una habitación con vista al mar? (*formal*) \_\_\_\_\_

## ejercicio

## 19-2

¡Con énfasis! Escribe el pronombre para indicar énfasis. The conjugated verb will tell you what person to choose.

1. Susana es trabajadora pero \_\_\_\_\_ eres muy perezosa.
2. Carlos y yo somos realistas pero \_\_\_\_\_ (*formal*) creen que la vida es un cuento de hadas (*fairy tale*).
3. Nado muy bien, ¡\_\_\_\_\_ merezco (*deserve*) una medalla!
4. Nosotras no cocinamos bien pero \_\_\_\_\_ no saben preparar un té instantáneo.
5. Ahora ustedes van a dormir y \_\_\_\_\_ vamos a trabajar.
6. Ellos beben té pero \_\_\_\_\_ prefiero el té tailandés.

## ejercicio

## 19-3

¿Tú o usted? Imagina que escribes una carta a estas personas. Marca una X detrás de la forma apropiada del pronombre de sujeto que debes usar.

1. tú \_\_\_\_\_ Ud. \_\_\_\_\_ el Presidente de los Estados Unidos
2. Uds. \_\_\_\_\_ vosotras \_\_\_\_\_ tu amiga Ana y su hermana de Barcelona
3. tú \_\_\_\_\_ Ud. \_\_\_\_\_ Doña Ana, una señora de setenta y cinco años
4. tú \_\_\_\_\_ Ud. \_\_\_\_\_ tu prima
5. Uds. \_\_\_\_\_ vosotros \_\_\_\_\_ el Dr. Palermo y su esposa
6. tú \_\_\_\_\_ Ud. \_\_\_\_\_ el Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas
7. tú \_\_\_\_\_ Ud. \_\_\_\_\_ el director de la escuela
8. Uds. \_\_\_\_\_ vosotros \_\_\_\_\_ unos desconocidos de cincuenta años de edad
9. Uds. \_\_\_\_\_ vosotros \_\_\_\_\_ los abuelos de tus amigos
10. tú \_\_\_\_\_ Ud. \_\_\_\_\_ un viejo amigo

## ejercicio

## 19-4

En español. Usa los pronombres de sujeto solamente si son necesarios.

1. You (tú) are what you eat. \_\_\_\_\_
2. They tell lies, I tell the truth. \_\_\_\_\_
3. It is raining. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Dr. Lagos, I need an appointment. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Mrs. Castro, can you hear me? \_\_\_\_\_
6. I work five days a week. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who is it? It is she. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Where do you (Uds.) live? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Is it snowing now? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Do you (tú) read the newspaper every day? \_\_\_\_\_

## Pronouns as Objects of Prepositions

Almost identical to the subject pronoun forms, these pronouns always follow a preposition.

Singular		Plural	
<b>mí</b>	me	<b>nosotros/nosotras</b>	us
<b>tí</b>	you (familiar)	<b>vosotros/vosotras</b>	you (familiar [Spain])
<b>usted (Ud.)</b>	you (formal)	<b>ustedes (Uds.)</b>	you (formal and familiar)
<b>él</b>	him, it (masculine)	<b>ellos</b>	them (masculine)
<b>ella</b>	her, it (feminine)	<b>ellas</b>	them (feminine)
<b>sí</b>	yourself, himself, herself, itself		

Note that:

- **mí**, **tí**, and **sí** are different from the subject pronouns.
- **mí** and **sí** have accent marks.
- **mí**, **tí**, and **sí**, combined with the preposition **con** (*with*), appear in the forms:

<b>conmigo</b>	with me
<b>contigo</b>	with you (familiar)
<b>consigo</b>	with you (formal), with him(self), with her(self), with them(selves)

## When Are Prepositional Pronouns Used in Spanish?

Prepositional pronouns appear as objects of prepositions.

Paco recibe una felicitación <b>de ella</b> .	<i>Paco receives a greeting card <b>from her</b>.</i>
Traen las maletas <b>consigo</b> .	<i>They bring the suitcases <b>with them</b>.</i>

Prepositional pronouns are also used:

- with the preposition **a** to emphasize the direct object.
 

<b>A tí</b> no te aprecian.	<i>They do not appreciate <b>you</b>.</i>
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- with the preposition **a** to make clear who is the indirect object or direct object.

<b>Le toca a ella</b> .	<i>It is <b>her</b> turn.</i>
<b>Los veo a ellos</b> .	<i>I see <b>them</b>.</i>

The forms of the prepositional pronouns have some exceptions. The subject pronoun forms **yo** and **tú** are used instead of **mí** and **tí** with the following prepositions:

<b>entre</b>	between
<b>excepto</b>	except
<b>incluso</b>	including
<b>menos</b>	except
<b>salvo</b>	except
<b>según</b>	according to

<b>Entre tú y yo</b> , están locos.	<i><b>Between you and me</b>, they are crazy.</i>
Todos lo apoyan <b>excepto yo</b> .	<i>Everyone supports him <b>except me</b>.</i>

## ejercicio

## 19-5

*Práctica. Escribe la forma apropiada del pronombre.*

1. para \_\_\_\_\_ (Marta)
2. de \_\_\_\_\_ (Lara y Raúl)
3. de acuerdo con \_\_\_\_\_ (yo)
4. en lugar de \_\_\_\_\_ (Uds.)
5. incluso \_\_\_\_\_ (tú)
6. menos \_\_\_\_\_ (vosotros)
7. por \_\_\_\_\_ (los chicos)
8. para \_\_\_\_\_ (las empleadas)
9. debajo de \_\_\_\_\_ (*it, f.*)
10. como \_\_\_\_\_ (nosotros)
11. delante de \_\_\_\_\_ (Ud.)
12. con \_\_\_\_\_ (tú)
13. con \_\_\_\_\_ (él)
14. según \_\_\_\_\_ (yo)

## ejercicio

## 19-6

*En español. Usa una de las preposiciones siguientes en cada frase.*

acerca de	como	debajo de	excepto	para
cerca de	con	encima de	lejos de	sin

1. We bring all the medicines with us (*m.*). \_\_\_\_\_
2. She sent these flowers for you (*tú*). \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who put the pillow under it (*f.*)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Lucy cannot live without them (*m.*). \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who lives near me? \_\_\_\_\_
6. We all know the answer except him. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The house is far from you (**Uds.**). \_\_\_\_\_
8. The cat is on top of me. \_\_\_\_\_
9. She is like you. \_\_\_\_\_
10. The press speaks about you (**vosotras**). \_\_\_\_\_

## Direct Object Pronouns

Object pronouns replace nouns. Direct object pronouns always answer the questions *What?* or *Whom?* If we hear the question “Who saw the movie?” and someone answers “She saw it,” we understand that *it* refers to the implicit noun *the movie*. *It* clearly answers the question “What did she see?” Except for placement, direct object pronouns in Spanish function as they do in English.

### Direct Object Pronoun Forms

Direct object pronouns (**los objetos de complemento directo**) are:

Singular		Plural	
<b>me</b>	me	<b>nos</b>	us
<b>te</b>	you (familiar)	<b>os</b>	you (familiar [Spain])
<b>lo</b>	him, it (masculine), you (formal, masculine)	<b>los</b>	them, you (formal and familiar)
<b>la</b>	her, it (feminine), you (formal, feminine)	<b>las</b>	them, you (formal and familiar)

*Note:* In some parts of Spain, when referring to people, **le** is used instead of **lo**.

### When Are Direct Object Pronouns Used in Spanish?

As in English, direct object pronouns in Spanish, referring to a noun previously mentioned, are used to avoid repetition. In the simple affirmative, the direct object pronoun *precedes* both simple and compound conjugated verbs. In English, of course, the pronoun follows the verb.

Tina prepara **el postre**. Tina **lo**  
prepara.

*Tina prepares dessert. She prepares it.*

The direct object pronoun also precedes the verb in negative statements and questions.

—¿Has visto **mi reloj de oro**? ¿**Lo**  
has visto?

*“Have you seen my gold watch? Have you seen  
it?”*

—No, **no lo** he visto.

*“No, I haven’t seen it.”*

#### ejercicio

#### 19-7

*En el partido de béisbol. Contesta las preguntas. Sustituye los complementos directos con los pronombres correspondientes.*

1. ¿Compraste las entradas? Sí, \_\_\_\_\_.
2. ¿Invitaste a Ana? No, \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ¿Llamaste a tus hermanos? No, \_\_\_\_\_.
4. ¿Tienes los binoculares? Sí, \_\_\_\_\_.



5. ¿Compraste los refrescos? No, \_\_\_\_\_.
6. ¿Lanzó Pepe la pelota? Sí, \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ¿Anotaron dos carreras? Sí, \_\_\_\_\_.
8. ¿Robaron dos bases? Sí, \_\_\_\_\_.

## ejercicio

19-8

**La astronomía.** Usa el pronombre que necesitas para sustituir el sustantivo en cursiva. Escribe la oración y coloca (place) el pronombre en el lugar apropiado.

1. Un astrónomo observa *los planetas*. \_\_\_\_\_
2. ¿Quiénes han visto *un OVNI (UFO)*? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Nosotros estudiamos *las estrellas*. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Ayer yo visité *otro observatorio*. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Tiene *dos telescopios fabulosos* en el segundo piso. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Notamos *la Vía Láctea (Milky Way)* porque la noche está muy clara. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Investigaremos *unos modelos espaciales*. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Ahora, saludamos *a la directora*. ¡Vamos! \_\_\_\_\_

## ejercicio

19-9

**En español.** Coloca los pronombres en el lugar apropiado.

1. I need her now. \_\_\_\_\_
2. She always helps me! \_\_\_\_\_
3. I wrote it (*f.*) for Gloria. \_\_\_\_\_
4. And I bought it (*m.*) with my money. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you (*tú*) visit them (*m.*)? \_\_\_\_\_
6. They respect me a lot. \_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you (tú) forgive me? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Oh, I know him very well. \_\_\_\_\_

**More About the Position of Direct Object Pronouns**

Study the rules of the placement of direct object pronouns with the following verb constructions:

- With negative commands (**mandatos**), the pronoun precedes the command.

No subas **las escaleras**. ¡No **las** subas!      *Don't climb **the steps**. Don't climb **them**!*

- With affirmative commands, attach the pronoun to the command.

Llama a **Juanita**. ¡Llá**ma**la!      *Call **Juanita**. Call **her**!*

Note the written accent mark on the construction: command form + attached pronoun. If the stressed syllable on the command form is the next-to-last syllable (not counting the pronoun), add the accent mark.

**ejercicio 19-10**

*En la cocina. Los pronombres y los mandatos. Sustituye el objeto directo con el pronombre correspondiente. Remember to attach the direct object pronoun to the affirmative command.*

1. Compra los ingredientes. \_\_\_\_\_
2. No gastes dinero inútilmente. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Laven las papas. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Fríe la cebolla. \_\_\_\_\_
5. No quemes el arroz. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Guarden las botellas. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Baja la llama (*flame*). \_\_\_\_\_

**ejercicio 19-11**

*El medio ambiente. En español.*

1. Protect the environment. Protect it now! (tú) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Write three posters. Write them! (Uds.) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Collect all plastic bottles. Collect them, please! (tú) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Recycle the newspapers. Recycle them! (Ud.) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Turn off the lights. Turn them off! (Uds.) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Save water. Save it, please! (Ud.) \_\_\_\_\_

- With infinitives and the **gerundio (-ando, -iendo)** forms, pronouns may precede the first verb or conjugated form; *or* it may be attached to the infinitive or the **gerundio**.

No queremos comprarlo. No **lo**  
queremos comprar.

*We do not want to buy it.*

Estoy leyéndolo. **Lo** estoy leyendo.

*I am reading it.*

Note the written accent mark on **leyéndolo**. When a pronoun is added to the **-ando, -iendo**, the accent mark indicates the original stressed vowel.

**ejercicio**
**19-12**

*Los infinitivos y los pronombres: las dos posibilidades. Sustituye los sustantivos con pronombres. Escribe las dos opciones, el pronombre antes del verbo y unido (attached) al infinitivo.*

1. Voy a practicar deportes. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
2. ¿Quieres hacer este ejercicio? \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
3. Vamos a hacer una apuesta (*bet*). \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
4. No quiero perder mi dinero. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
5. Los chicos van a ganar el partido (*game*). \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
6. Queremos gastar todo el dinero. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
7. Tú no sabes responder a esta pregunta. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
8. ¿Dónde quieres poner este pronombre? \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**ejercicio**
**19-13**

*¿Qué están haciendo ahora? El complemento directo. Escribe la forma apropiada del pronombre del complemento directo en cursiva. Únelo (Attach it) al gerundio -ando, -iendo.*

1. Mirta está escondiendo *los chocolates*. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Álvaro está buscando *las zapatillas (slippers)*. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Andy y Ann están viendo *la película*. \_\_\_\_\_

4. ¿Por qué Uds. están oyendo *esa música*? \_\_\_\_\_
5. ¿Quiénes están pagando *las cuentas*? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Los hermanos Díaz están leyendo *el periódico*. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Marco está bebiendo *una limonada fría*. \_\_\_\_\_

**ejercicio 19-14**

**En español.** *Estamos disfrutando el concierto. Write both possible constructions for gerundio + direct object pronouns.*

1. We are watching it (*f.*). \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
2. The musicians are playing it (*m.*). \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
3. I am observing them (*m.*). \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
4. Are you (**Ud.**) applauding it (*f.*, **la banda**)? \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
5. The band is playing it (*f.*, **la marcha**). \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Indirect Object Pronouns**

The indirect object usually tells *for whom* or *to whom* the action is done.

Carlos **me** dio un anillo. *Carlos gave me a ring.*  
 Carlos **le** dio el anillo (**a ella**). *Carlos gave the ring to her.*

Forms of the indirect object pronouns (**los objetos de complemento indirecto**):

Singular		Plural	
<b>me</b>	to me	<b>nos</b>	to us
<b>te</b>	to you (familiar)	<b>os</b>	to you (familiar [Spain])
<b>le</b>	to him, to her, to it, to you (formal)	<b>les</b>	to them (masculine and feminine), to you (formal and familiar)

The forms of the direct and indirect object pronouns are the same for the first and second persons, singular and plural. The third-person forms **le** and **les** are used for both feminine and masculine objects, as well as for the formal singular and formal and familiar plural forms of **Ud.** and **Uds.** **Os** is the plural familiar indirect (and direct) object pronoun, used in Spain.

**Le** prometí que vendría. *I promised (whom?) I would come.*

The above statement needs clarification. It is likely that the listener/reader does not know which individual was promised something (i.e., that the speaker would come). Thus the speaker needs to identify the antecedent of the indirect object (**le**).

**Le** prometí **a Carmen** que vendría. *I promised Carmen I would come.*  
**Le** prometía **a ella** que vendría. *I promised her I would come.*

## Where Are Indirect Object Pronouns Placed?

The same rules for placement of the direct object pronouns apply to the indirect object pronouns. According to the general rule, indirect object pronouns are placed before both simple or compound forms of the conjugated verb. In English, the pronoun follows the verb.

Bettina **me** dio la maleta.  
¿Le has dado tu palabra?

*Bettina gave me the suitcase.*  
*Have you given him/her your word?*

The following is a selected list of verbs that take a person as an indirect object in Spanish. Remember to use the indirect object pronoun with these verbs.

<b>contar(le) algo (a alguien)</b>	to tell something (to someone)
<b>dar(le) algo (a alguien)</b>	to give something (to someone)
<b>decir(le) algo (a alguien)</b>	to say something (to someone)
<b>pedir(le) algo (a alguien)</b>	to ask something (of someone)
<b>regalar(le) algo (a alguien)</b>	to give something (a gift) (to someone)
<b>servir(le) algo (a alguien)</b>	to serve something (to someone)
<b>traer(le) algo (a alguien)</b>	to bring something (to someone)

### ejercicio

**19-15**

*Los complementos indirectos. Escribe el pronombre para sustituir las palabras entre paréntesis.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ dio el dinero. (al empleado)
- \_\_\_\_\_ envió una tarjeta postal. (a mí)
- \_\_\_\_\_ devolví los libros. (a la bibliotecaria)
- ¿\_\_\_\_\_ mostró sus intenciones? (a Ud.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ repartimos los juguetes. (a los niños)
- \_\_\_\_\_ reciclan las botellas. (a nosotros)
- ¿\_\_\_\_\_ añadiste el coñac? (a la receta)
- \_\_\_\_\_ pegaron un golpe (*hit*). (a ti)

### ejercicio

**19-16**

*Escribe en español. Después, subraya el pronombre de complemento indirecto.*

- I sent you (**tú**) the letter. \_\_\_\_\_
- You (**tú**) did not answer me. \_\_\_\_\_
- Taly did not explain her problem to me. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Did she tell you (**Ud.**) about her engagement (**compromiso**)? \_\_\_\_\_
5. She showed us her engagement ring (**anillo de compromiso**). \_\_\_\_\_
6. Lynda prepares lunch for her. \_\_\_\_\_
7. They always ask me many questions. \_\_\_\_\_

**The Placement of Indirect Object Pronouns with Commands, Infinitives, and Gerundio Forms**

The indirect object pronouns follow the same rules of placement as the direct object pronouns with commands (**mandatos**), infinitives, and **gerundio** forms.

- With negative commands the pronoun precedes the command.

**No me digas** eso. *Don't tell me that!*

- With affirmative commands, attach the pronoun to the command.

**Tráele** el desayuno a la cama. *Bring him/her breakfast in bed.*

A written accent mark appears on the construction: command form + attached pronoun. Remember to add the accent mark on the next-to-last syllable (not counting the pronoun) of the command form.

As with the direct object pronouns, with infinitives and the **gerundio**, either place the pronouns before the first verb or conjugated form, *or* attach them to the infinitive or **gerundio**.

Espero **darles** una buena noticia. *I hope to give you good news.*  
 Estamos **comprándole** un sombrero. *We are buying him a hat.*

Note the accent mark on **comprándole**. Remember to add it to the original stressed vowel of the **-ando**, **-iendo** forms when you attach object pronouns.

**ejercicio 19-17**

*Los mandatos y los pronombres. Usa el pronombre de complemento indirecto que corresponde a las palabras entre paréntesis. Escribe la oración de nuevo y une el pronombre al mandato si es afirmativo.*

1. Compren Uds. la revista (a Luisa). \_\_\_\_\_
2. Revisa la tarea (*homework*) (a los chicos). \_\_\_\_\_
3. Entreguen esta solicitud (*application*) (al director del programa). \_\_\_\_\_
4. No digan una mentira (a sus jefes). \_\_\_\_\_
5. Devuelve los libros (a la bibliotecaria) (*librarian*). \_\_\_\_\_
6. Pida Ud. la visa (al cónsul). \_\_\_\_\_
7. No cuenten el final (a mí). \_\_\_\_\_

8. Regalen una torta (*cake*) de chocolate (al maestro). \_\_\_\_\_
9. Explique Ud. este problema (a su siquiatra). \_\_\_\_\_
10. Comenten este síntoma (a su doctor). \_\_\_\_\_

## ejercicio

19-18

*Los infinitivos y los pronombres.* Sustituye las palabras entre paréntesis con el pronombre de objeto indirecto. Write both options: the pronoun attached to the infinitive and the pronoun preceding the conjugated verb.

1. Queremos llevar un regalo. (a tú tía) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
2. Debe pedir una excusa. (a su jefe) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
3. Voy a servir una paella. (a mis amigos) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
4. ¡No puedes decir mentiras! (a tus padres) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
5. Laura no quiere llevar las cajas. (a Ana y Luis) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. ¿Puedes prestar (*lend*) cien euros? (a nosotros) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. ¿Vais a servir un aperitivo? (a los clientes) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
8. Puedes hacer un favor. (a Miguel) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

## ejercicio

19-19

*¿Qué hacen?* Sustituye el objeto indirecto entre paréntesis con el pronombre de complemento indirecto. Escribe la forma apropiada del pronombre y únelo al gerundio (*-ando, -iendo*).

1. Mirta está regalando los chocolates. (a los niños) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Álvaro está buscando las zapatillas. (para Uds.) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Los chicos están escribiendo una tarjeta. (a su tía) \_\_\_\_\_
4. ¿Por qué Uds. están tocando esa música? (para el público) \_\_\_\_\_
5. ¿Quiénes están pagando las cuentas? (a la tesorera) \_\_\_\_\_
6. Los hermanos Díaz están comentando el artículo. (a nosotros) \_\_\_\_\_

7. Marco está sirviendo una limonada fría. (a vosotros) \_\_\_\_\_
8. ¿Por qué tú no estás preparando la cena? (a mí) \_\_\_\_\_
9. Yo estoy lavando las sábanas (*bedsheets*). (para ti) \_\_\_\_\_
10. Nosotros estamos reciclando las botellas. (para la comunidad) \_\_\_\_\_

## ejercicio

19-20

*Los intercambios. En español. Place the pronouns before the conjugated verb.*

1. We are sending them a postcard. \_\_\_\_\_
2. I am lending (**prestar**) you (**tú**) my bicycle. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The bank is asking me for the money. \_\_\_\_\_
4. You (**tú**) are sending me a thousand dollars? \_\_\_\_\_
5. I am writing you (**Ud.**) a note. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Are you (**Uds.**) making me an offer (**oferta**)? \_\_\_\_\_
7. She is asking you (**vosotros**) a favor. \_\_\_\_\_

### Double Object Pronouns

A direct plus an indirect object pronoun can and frequently do appear with a verb in Spanish.

Prefiero escuchar sus comentarios.

*I prefer hearing his/her comments.*

**Me los** lee con frecuencia.

*He/She reads **them to me** frequently.*

**Me** is the indirect object indicating the person to whom he/she reads (**lee**). The second object **los** is the direct object pronoun replacing **sus comentarios**. The English equivalent is usually an object pronoun plus a prepositional phrase (*them to me*).

### How Are Double Object Pronouns Used in Spanish?

In daily communication double object pronouns often simplify messages and avoid repetition. The placement of double pronouns is the same as single object pronouns. They appear before the conjugated form of the verb. The indirect object pronoun precedes the direct object pronoun.

¿Tu dinero? **Te lo** doy ahora mismo.

*Your money? I'm giving **it to you** now.*

Sheila **nos la** envió.

*Sheila sent **it to us**.*

Ella **se la** envió a Marcos. Y **se la** envió a Lara y su hermana también.

*She sent **it to Marcos**. And she sent **it to Lara and her sister** too.*



Note that the indirect object pronoun form in the last example above is **se**. (You would expect **le** to appear in the construction **se la envió** and **les** in the construction **se la envió**.)

The indirect object pronouns **le** and **les** are changed to **se** when they are followed by **lo**, **los**, **la**, or **las**. For emphasis or clarification, a preposition plus noun or a preposition plus prepositional pronoun is usually added to this type of sentence.

**Se la compré a los niños. No se la  
compré a Uds.**

*I bought it for the children. I did not buy it  
for you.*

## ejercicio

## 19-21

*Están muy ocupados. Práctica. Sustituye los objetos de complemento directo e indirecto y escribe una frase con los pronombres en el orden correspondiente.*

EJEMPLO Rita prepara / un té tailandés / para mí. → Rita me lo prepara.

1. Tomás trae / los paquetes / a nosotros. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Él compra / los vegetales / a su tía. \_\_\_\_\_
3. El meteorólogo explica / el tiempo / a los televidentes (*TV viewers*). \_\_\_\_\_
4. Pero no dice / las malas noticias / a ellas. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Tomás entrega / la tarea / a su profesor. \_\_\_\_\_
6. El agente de viajes hace / las reservaciones / para vosotros. \_\_\_\_\_
7. El periodista presenta / muchas preguntas / a la senadora (*senator*). \_\_\_\_\_
8. Mi peluquera (*hairdresser*) prepara / el tinte (*hair color*) / para mí. \_\_\_\_\_
9. El policía da / una multa (*traffic ticket*) / al conductor. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Ronnie lee / el periódico / a nosotros. \_\_\_\_\_

### The Position of Double Object Pronouns with Commands, Infinitives, and the *Gerundio*

The position of double object pronouns with commands, the infinitive, and the **gerundio** is the same as the position of single object pronouns:

- With negative commands (**mandatos**), the pronouns precede the command.

No **nos los** traigas.

*Do not bring them to us.*

- With affirmative commands, attach the pronouns to the command; the indirect object pronoun is followed by the direct object pronoun.

**Tráele el desayuno** a la cama.  
**¡Tráeselo!**

*Bring him breakfast in bed. Bring it to him!*

- With infinitives and the **gerundio** (-ando, -iendo), either place the pronouns before the first verb or conjugated form, or attach them to the infinitive or **gerundio**.

Quieren **darles la noticia**. Sí, quieren  
dárselas personalmente.

*They want to give them the news. Yes, they want  
to give it to them personally.*

Estamos **comprándote** un traje.

*We are buying you a suit. Do you want to try  
it on?*

¿Quieres **probártelo**?

Accent marks are added to the original stressed vowels: ¡**tráeselo!** and **probártelo**. Note that the reflexive pronoun (**te**) is also an indirect object pronoun in the second example above (**probártelo**).

### ejercicio

19-22

*En español.*

1. Take (**Ud.**) it (*m.*) to him. \_\_\_\_\_
2. She is giving them (*m.*) to you (**Uds.**). \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do not sing (**tú**) it (*f.*) to him. \_\_\_\_\_
4. They are going to wash them (*fem.*) for me. \_\_\_\_\_
5. All the salesmen want to sell them (*m.*) to you (**tú**). \_\_\_\_\_

## The Indirect Object Pronoun with *Gustar* and Other Verbs

Certain verbs are always used in the third-person singular or plural with an indirect object pronoun. This is the case with **gustar**, which expresses likes and dislikes.

**Me gusta** el chocolate.

*I like chocolate.*

**Me gustan** las motocicletas también.

*I like motorcycles too.*

This structure may take a bit of practice for English speakers learning Spanish. Note that the forms of **gustar** agree with the subject of each sentence. **El chocolate** is singular and the verb is in the third-person singular, **gusta**. In the second example, **gustan** in the plural agrees with the subject of the sentence **las motocicletas**. Note the use of the definite article before each subject (**el chocolate, las motocicletas**), both of which follow the verbs, **me gusta(n)**.

The indirect object pronoun refers to the person who *likes* the subject: **el chocolate, las motocicletas**. The prepositional form of the pronoun is often used to clarify sentences with the third-person pronoun **le**: *A ella le gustan los objetos de cristal, pero a él le gustan los de cerámica.* (She likes crystal objects, but he likes ceramic ones.) The prepositional form may also be used for emphasis: *A mí me gustan las motocicletas.* (I like motorcycles.)

Of course a noun or name can also be used to clarify which person likes or dislikes something or someone (and is the indirect object of **gustar**).

A Ana no le gusta bailar pero a su hermano sí le gusta.

Ana does not like to dance but her brother does like to dance.

*Note:* The subject of **gustar** may be an infinitive or more than one infinitive. The conjugation of **gustar** remains singular in either case: **Me gusta nadar y caminar.** (*I like to swim and to walk.*)

¿Te gusta viajar?  
Y me gusta nadar y caminar por la playa también.

Do you like traveling (to travel)?  
And I like swimming and walking on the beach, too.

## ejercicio

19-23

¿Qué les gusta? Usa la forma del verbo **gustar** y el complemento indirecto apropiados. Escribe la oración completa.

1. A Patricia / gustar / ir de compras. \_\_\_\_\_
2. A los estudiantes no / gustar / los exámenes. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Y a los pacifistas no / gustar / las guerras. \_\_\_\_\_
4. A mí / gustar / viajar. \_\_\_\_\_
5. A los turistas / gustar / sacar fotos. \_\_\_\_\_
6. A tu amigo Javier / gustar / los refrescos. \_\_\_\_\_
7. ¿A ti / gustar / las flores? \_\_\_\_\_
8. ¿A quién no / gustar / la música mexicana? \_\_\_\_\_

## ejercicio

19-24

*En español.*

1. I know you (**Ud.**) like funny movies. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Children like to tease (**fastidiar**) my dog. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you (**tú**) like French food? \_\_\_\_\_
4. We do not like to get up early. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Sandra likes to learn new Spanish words. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Who does not like to travel? \_\_\_\_\_

- 7. Julia does not like this song. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Do you (tú) like orchids? \_\_\_\_\_

Here are some other verbs conjugated like **gustar** in the third-person singular or plural with indirect object pronouns.

<b>apasionar</b>	to be mad about	<b>hacer falta</b>	to be in need of
<b>encantar</b>	to love (something)	<b>importar</b>	to care about
<b>enloquecer</b>	to be crazy about	<b>molestar</b>	to be bothered by
<b>disgustar</b>	to dislike; to hate	<b>parecer</b>	to seem; to appear to
<b>faltar</b>	to be missing	<b>sobrar</b>	to be left over
<b>fascinar</b>	to be fascinated	<b>tocarle a alguien</b>	to be one's turn

**ejercicio 19-25**

*Preguntas personales.*

- 1. ¿Qué te gusta más hacer en tu tiempo libre? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. ¿Y qué te apasiona? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. ¿Qué te hace falta ahora? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. ¿Cuándo te toca pagar la cuenta de la electricidad? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. ¿Te apasionan los deportes? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. ¿Te molestan las críticas de tus enemigos? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. ¿Te enloquecen los anuncios (*ads*) por la radio? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. ¿Qué te disgusta más? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. ¿Te sobra el dinero? \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. ¿Qué te encanta hacer en tus vacaciones? \_\_\_\_\_

**ejercicio 19-26**

*Sobre gustos hay mucho escrito. Traduce. Usa el vocabulario útil.*

“There is nothing written about good taste,” says my friend Pablo. I have a different opinion and I am going to express it. I do not like to sleep in a hammock. I love to go on vacation and swim in an Olympic pool. I like the good things in life, but in moderation. I love animals, and I hate horror movies. I love December because my family and I ski in the mountains. I go with my sister, and I love to compete with her.

**vocabulario útil**

good taste    **el buen gusto**  
hammock    **la hamaca**  
horror film    **la película de horror**

Olympic pool    **la piscina olímpica**  
to compete    **competir (e > i)**  
to ski    **esquiar**