

Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns

Direct objects: The item or person that is being interacted with directly by the subject. The DO is acted on by the action of the verb. (example: la manzana, el libro, los chicos)

Indirect objects: The (usually) person or the thing that receives the direct object. (example: la mujer, tú, el profesor)

Review of other relevant terms

Subject: The person or thing actually doing the action of the sentence. The doer of the verb. (example: yo, tú, ella, mi mamá, los estudiantes, la presidenta)

Verb: Action words! Probably conjugated in your sentence and maybe be comprised of multiple words (example: “Voy a jugar...”)

Pronouns: Pronouns take the place of nouns. This prevents of us from repeating ourselves all the time. (example: My mom likes to knit my mom’s socks. My mom usually gives my mom’s work to my mom’s friends. OR My mom likes to knit her socks. She usually gives her work to her friends. PRONOUNS!)

Now here are two charts you’ve probably seen before:

Direct Object Pronouns	
Me	Nos
Te	
Lo/La	Los/Las

Indirect Object Pronouns	
Me	Nos
Te	
Le (Se)	Les (Se)

Ok, now let’s try identifying direct and indirect objects in some sentences. Label the subject (S), verb (V), direct object (DO), and indirect object (IO).

1. Mi papá maneja una camioneta.
2. Los estudiantes ven al profesor.
3. Las mujeres regalan flores a sus amigas.
4. A su novio la chica siempre le lleva galletas.

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Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns

Now let's use direct and indirect object pronouns instead of all of those words! The direct object pronoun always goes in front of the *conjugated verb*. If there is an indirect object, the pronoun goes before the *direct object pronoun*. The order should be Subject, indirect object pronoun, direct object pronoun, verb.

1.

Mi papá	maneja	una camioneta.
subject	verb	direct object

Mi papá _____ maneja. → Mi papá *la* maneja.

The direct object is singular and feminine.

2.

Los estudiantes	ven	al profesor
subject	verb	direct object

Los estudiantes _____ ven. → Los estudiantes *lo* ven.

The direct object is singular and masculine.

3.

Las mujeres	regalan	flores	a sus amigas.
subject	verb	direct object	indirect object

Las mujeres _____ _____ regalan. → Las mujeres se las regalan.

Both the direct object and indirect object are plural and feminine.

OJO! Se? Where'd that come from? Remember: "You can't le lo in Mexico." This means that instead of writing "Las mujeres les las regalan", you have change the *indirect object pronoun* to "se."

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4.

A su novio	la chica	siempre	le	lleva	galletas.
indirect obj.	subject		indirect obj, pronoun	verb	direct object

La chica siempre _____ → La chica siempre se las lleva.

The indirect object is singular and masculine. The direct object is plural and feminine.

One final thing: If the verb is in the infinitive form (not conjugated), you can add the direct and indirect object pronouns to the end of it.

Mi papá va a manejar la camioneta. → Mi papá va a manejarla.

Los estudiantes fueron a ver a su profesor. → Los estudiantes fueron a verlo.

Las mujeres quieren regalar flores a sus amigas. → Las mujeres quieren regalárselas.

La chica quiere llevar galletas a su novio. → La chica quiere llevárselas.

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