

Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns in the Same Sentence

<u>DIRECT OBJECT</u>	<u>INDIRECT OBJECT</u>
Me	Me
Te	Te
Lo	Le
La	Le
Lo/la	Le
Nos	Nos
Los	Les
Las	Les
Los/Las	Les

You already know that the direct object receives the action of the verb and that it can be replaced by a direct object pronoun that goes in front of the conjugated verb.

Paco lanzó la pelota.
(verb) (direct object)

Paco la lanzó.
(DOP) (verb)

You already know that the indirect object answers the question to/for whom or what and that it can be replaced by an indirect object pronoun that goes in front of the conjugated verb.

Paco le lanzó la pelota a María.
(INDOP) (verb) (direct object) (indirect object)

Whenever you have a direct and an indirect object in the same sentence, they can both be replaced by a pronoun.

Example: My mother wrote a letter to me. My mother wrote it to me.
Paco threw the ball to Maria. Paco threw it to her.
They gave the ticket to you. They gave it to you.

There are a series of rules to follow when you have a direct and an indirect object in the same sentence. Remember this saying and you will always be correct....**RID**....reflexive, indirect, direct....That is the order when you have multiple pronouns in the same sentence.

Object Pronoun Rules

1. The object pronoun comes **before** the conjugated verb.

Josefina compra el libro.
Josefina lo compra.

Josefina compra las zapatillas.
Josefina las compra.

2. Object pronouns come after and are attached to an infinitive.

Voy a estudiar la tarea. (no object pronoun used)
Voy a estudiarla. (pronoun is attached to the infinitive)
La voy a estudiar. (pronoun is placed before the verb – rule #1)

Necesito comprar los libros. (no object pronoun used)
Necesito comprarlos. (pronoun is attached to the infinitive)
Los necesito comprar. (pronoun is placed before the verb – rule #1)

NOTE: When double pronouns are attached to an infinitive, an accent must be added to the last syllable of the infinitive in order to maintain the correct stress on the word. It usually falls on the third syllable from the end. There is NO accent added when only one pronoun is attached to an infinitive.

Él quiere vender la casa a nosotros.
Él quiere vendérnosla.

Ellos van a comprar un libro para la profesora.
Ellos van a comprárselo.

3. Object pronouns come after and are attached to a present participle. The present participle is the verb form which in English, ends in “ING”. (example: singing, dancing, eating...) In Spanish the verb endings are “- ANDO, -IENDO, -YENDO.

Estoy comprando los libros. (no object pronoun used)
Estoy comprándolos. (NOTE: when adding one object pronoun to the end of the present participle, the accent is in the 3rd syllable counting backwards.)
Los estoy comprando. (pronoun is placed before the verb – rule #1)

4. Double object pronouns – both in the same sentence

The indirect object pronoun always comes before the direct object pronoun.

Example: Te los necesito comprar. I need to buy them for you. (Rule #1)
(INDOP) (DOP)

Necesito comprártelos. (Rule #2)(NOTE: when adding two object pronouns to an infinitive, the accent is on the third syllable counting backwards.)
(IDOP) (DOP)

Example: Estoy comprando los libros para ti.
Estoy comprándotelos. (Rule #3)
(I) (D)

(NOTE: when adding two object pronouns to the end of the present participle, the accent is on the 4th syllable counting backwards.)

Te los estoy comprando. (Rule #1)
(I) (D)

*****Whenever the indirect object is a 3rd person, (a ella, a él, a María, a Uds. a Paco y María...) you must change the pronoun le/les when you put it in front of a direct object pronoun. THE LE/LES CHANGES TO SE.

Paco le lanzó la pelota a María. Paco **se** la lanzó. (a María)
(INDOP) (DIRECT OBJECT) (INDIRECT OBJECT) (INDOP) (DOP)

Note that the “le” changed to “se”. This happens whether it is 3rd person singular (le) or 3rd person plural (les). Remember the saying....
YOU CAN'T LE LO (LAY LOW) EN ESPAÑOL.

Paco les lanzó la pelota a ellas.
Paco threw the ball to them.

Paco se la lanzó.
Paco threw it to them.

REVIEW: You can't have the two LE/S LO/LA/LOS/LAS together.

These become “se” before the direct object pronouns		These become “se” before the direct object pronouns	
Le	Lo	Les	Lo
Le	La	Les	La
Le	Los	Les	Los
Le	Las	Les	Las

How do you know if it is “le” or “les”? You can clarify by context. (a él, a ella, a ud. , a ellos, a ellas, a Uds.)

5. Object pronouns come after and are attached to affirmative commands.

Cómpralos

Note: the accent is on the third syllable from the end.

Object pronouns come before a negative command.

No los compres.