

Object Pronouns

Whereas subject pronouns refer to the person doing the action, object pronouns replace the “who” or “what” that receives the action. For example: I see him.= Yo lo veo. In this sentence, “I” is replaced by the subject pronoun “yo” and “him” is replaced by the object pronoun: “lo”.

Object pronouns are not foreign to English speakers, and thankfully, they are used in the same way throughout the Spanish language. It would be incorrect in English to use other pronouns in their place and say “I see he.” The same applies in Spanish. The following chart summarizes the object pronouns.

me, to me	<i>me</i>
you, to you	<i>te</i>
him or “it” her or “it” to him or to her	<i>lo*</i> <i>la*</i> <i>le: se</i>
us, to us	<i>nos</i>
to all of you (corresponds to “vosotros”)	<i>os</i>
them (masculine or mixed) them (feminine) to them (masculine or feminine)	<i>los*</i> <i>las*</i> <i>les: se</i>

*Note that when using the words “it” or “them” to describe an object or objects, you must know what the gender of the object is in order to correctly express yourself. “la” would replace a feminine object, such as “la casa”, where “lo” would replace “el dinero.”

For more practice on this topic, please visit:

http://www.colby.edu/~bknelson/exercises/DO_IO.html (any of the exercises listed)

<http://www.studyspanish.com/tutorial.htm> (exercises 41-47)

Notice where Spanish object pronouns are placed within the sentence. When the action (verb) of a sentence is conjugated, the object pronoun always precedes the verb as in the following examples:

I need it.	Yo lo necesito.
We see them.	Nosotros los vemos.
You invite him.	Tú lo invitás.
They buy it.	Ellos la compran

However, the same object pronouns are attached to the end of the verb when the verb is in the infinitive or in positive command form, such as in the following examples. [Please note that there is no separation between the pronoun and the verb.]

I need to sell it.	Yo necesito venderla.
He wants to see you.	Él quiere verte.
Buy it!	Cómprelo.
Listen to me!	Escúchenme.

When two pronouns are used together in a single sentence, the “me”, “te”, “nos” or “le” will always precede the “lo”, “la”, “los” or “las”. In the case of lelo, lela, lelos or lelas, “le” changes to “se”

He sends it to you.	Él te la manda.
I give it to him.	Yo se lo doy. (not le lo doy)

As with most pronouns, no clarification is needed with “me”, “te” or “nos”. However, when using “le” or “les”, clarification is needed to make sure the listener understands who is being replaced by the pronoun.

¿Quién te lo dijo?
Pablo me lo dijo.

¿A quién le mandas la carta?
Yo se la mando a María.

¿A Juanita le dan la muñeca?
Sí, mamá y papá se la dan a ella.