

6.2

Indirect object pronouns



ANTE TODO

In **Lección 5**, you learned that a direct object receives the action of the verb directly. In contrast, an indirect object receives the action of the verb indirectly.



An indirect object is a noun or pronoun that answers the question *to whom* or *for whom* an action is done. In the preceding example, the indirect object answers this question:

¿A quién le presta Roberto cien pesos? *To whom does Roberto lend 100 pesos?*

Indirect object pronouns

Singular forms

me	(to, for) <i>me</i>
te	(to, for) <i>you</i> (fam.)
le	(to, for) <i>you</i> (form.) (to, for) <i>him; her</i>

Plural forms

nos	(to, for) <i>us</i>
os	(to, for) <i>you</i> (fam.)
les	(to, for) <i>you</i> (to, for) <i>them</i>

- **¡Atención!** The forms of indirect object pronouns for the first and second persons (**me, te, nos, os**) are the same as the direct object pronouns. Indirect object pronouns agree in number with the corresponding nouns, but not in gender.

Bueno, le doy un descuento.



Acabo de mostrarles que sí sabemos regatear.



Using indirect object pronouns

- Spanish speakers commonly use both an indirect object pronoun and the noun to which it refers in the same sentence. This is done to emphasize and clarify to whom the pronoun refers.

I.O. PRONOUN		INDIRECT OBJECT		I.O. PRONOUN		INDIRECT OBJECT
Ella le	vende la ropa	a Elena.		Les	prestamos el dinero	a Inés y a Álex.

- Indirect object pronouns are also used without the indirect object noun when the person for whom the action is being done is known.

Ana **le** presta la falda **a Elena.**
Ana lends her skirt to Elena.

También **le** presta unos jeans.
She also lends her a pair of jeans.

CONSULTA

For more information on accents, see **Lección 4, Pronunciación**, p. 123, **Lección 10, Ortografía**, p. 339, and **Lección 11, Ortografía**, p. 375.

- ▶ Indirect object pronouns are usually placed before the conjugated form of the verb. In negative sentences the pronoun is placed between **no** and the conjugated verb.

Martín **me** compra un regalo.
Martín is buying me a gift.

Eva **no me** escribe cartas.
Eva doesn't write me letters.

- ▶ When a conjugated verb is followed by an infinitive or the present progressive, the indirect object pronoun may be placed before the conjugated verb or attached to the infinitive or present participle. **¡Atención!** When an indirect object pronoun is attached to a present participle, an accent mark is added to maintain the proper stress.

Él no quiere **pagarte**./
Él **no te** quiere pagar.
He does not want to pay you.

Él está **escribiéndole** una postal a ella./
Él **le** está escribiendo una postal a ella.
He is writing a postcard to her.

- ▶ Because the indirect object pronouns **le** and **les** have multiple meanings, Spanish speakers often clarify to whom the pronouns refer with the preposition **a** + [pronoun] or **a** + [noun].

UNCLARIFIED STATEMENTS
Yo **le** compro un abrigo.
Ella **le** describe un libro.

CLARIFIED STATEMENTS
Yo **le** compro un abrigo **a usted/él/ella**.
Ella **le** describe un libro **a Juan**.

UNCLARIFIED STATEMENTS
Él **les** vende unos sombreros.

CLARIFIED STATEMENTS
Él **les** vende unos sombreros **a ustedes/ellos/ellas**.

Ellos **les** hablan muy claro.

Ellos **les** hablan muy claro **a los clientes**.

- ▶ The irregular verbs **dar** (to give) and **decir** (to say; to tell) are often used with indirect object pronouns.

The verbs dar and decir

Singular forms

	dar	decir
yo	doy	digo
tú	das	dices
Ud./él/ella	da	dice

Plural forms

	dar	decir
nosotros/as	damos	decimos
vosotros/as	dais	decís
Uds./ellos/ellas	dan	dicen

Me dan una fiesta cada año.
They give (throw) me a party every year.

Te digo la verdad.
I'm telling you the truth.

Voy a **darle** consejos.
I'm going to give her advice.

No **les digo** mentiras a mis padres.
I don't tell lies to my parents.

recursos



¡INTÉNTALO!

Use the cues in parentheses to provide the correct indirect object pronoun for each sentence.

1. Juan le quiere dar un regalo. (to Elena)
2. María _____ prepara un café. (for us)
3. Beatriz y Felipe _____ escriben desde (from) Cuba. (to me)
4. Marta y yo _____ compramos unos guantes. (for them)
5. Los vendedores _____ venden ropa. (to you, fam. sing.)
6. La dependienta _____ muestra los guantes. (to us)