Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns
EQUIVALENTS: me, you, him, her, it, us, them.

FUNCTION: Replace the name(s) of the direct object(s) of the verb in a sentence or clause.

SPANISH PLACEMENT: Immediately before the conjugated verb or attached directly to the infinitive.

ENGLISH EQUIVALENTS: me, you, him, her, it, us, them.

The direct object answers the question What? or Whom? with regard to the verb in a sentence or clause. Consider the sentence, "John has the book." What does John have? He has the book; thus, the book is the direct object. The direct object pronoun it can therefore replace the direct object noun in the sentence, "John has it."

In the sentence, "John sees Mary," one can ask, "Whom does John see?" John sees Mary; thus, Mary is the direct object. The direct object pronoun her can replace Mary in the sentence, "John sees her."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>me (me)</td>
<td>nos (us)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>te (yon)</td>
<td>os (you)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lo/la (him/her; you; it)</td>
<td>los/las (them; you)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Placement in Affirmative Sentences

In an affirmative statement (or clause) with one verb, the direct object pronoun will immediately precede the conjugated verb.

examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spanish</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yo te conozco.</td>
<td>I know you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tú me amas.</td>
<td>You love me.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ella los compra.</td>
<td>She buys them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los compras.</td>
<td>We buy it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La compras.</td>
<td>You have it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ustedes lo quieren.</td>
<td>You want it.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fill in each blank with the appropriate direct object pronoun.

1. Juan tiene el libro.
   Juan ________ tiene.

2. Ellos ven a María.
   Ellos ________ ven.

3. Yo conozco a Jorge y a Felipe.
   Yo ________ conozco.

   Juanita ________ conoce.

5. Tú lavas la ropa.
   Tú ________ lavas.

6. Tú compras los huevos.
   Tú ________ compras.

7. Ustedes beben la leche.
   Ustedes ________ beben.

8. Yo no veo los libros.
   Yo no ________ veo.

9. Ellas tienen el dinero.
   Ellas ________ tienen.

10. Vosotros comprendéis el ejercicio.
    Vosotros ________ comprendéis.

11. Marta lleva el vestido a la fiesta.
    Marta ________ lleva a la fiesta.

12. Yo uso la computadora cada día.
    Yo ________ uso cada día.

13. Alejandro vende los zapatos.
    Alejandro ________ vende.

14. Ella toma las vitaminas.
    Ella ________ toma.

15. Nosotros miramos la televisión.
    Nosotros ________ miramos.

---

1. I love you. ______________________
   7. I drink it (m.). ______________________

2. I love him. ______________________
   8. I have it (f.). ______________________

3. He loves me. ______________________
   9. You (s., fam.) have it (m.). ____________

4. I see you (s., fam.). ______________________
   10. She has them (m.). ______________________

5. I know you (s., formal). ______________________
   11. You love me. ______________________

6. She sees him. ______________________
   12. I love her. ______________________
13. They love us.  
14. You (s., fam.) see me.  
15. You (pl., fam.) know me.  
16. We see her.  
17. They eat it (f).  
18. I want it (m).  
19. We want it (f).  
20. We have them (f).  

**ejercicio** I-9-3  

*Answer the following questions using a direct object pronoun. Answer questions 4–15 in the affirmative.*  

1. ¿Dónde compras la ropa?  
2. ¿Dónde compras los libros?  
3. ¿Dónde estudias español?  
4. ¿Conoces al Presidente de los Estados Unidos?  
5. ¿Tomas un café cada día?  
6. ¿Comprendes esta lección?  
7. ¿Lees la revista Teenbeat?  
8. ¿Lees el periódico cada día?  
9. ¿Haces la cama cada día?  
10. ¿Conoces la capital de España?  
11. ¿Ves las estrellas ahora?  
12. ¿Comes mucho pan?  
13. ¿Miras las telenovelas (soap operas)?  
14. ¿Lees poemas románticos a menudo?  

**Placement in Negative Sentences**  

In a negative sentence (or clause) with one verb, the direct object pronoun is placed between the word *no* (or other term of negation) and the conjugated verb.  

*examples:*  

Yo *no* lo sé.  
I *don't* know it.  

No lo conocemos.  
We *don't* know him.
No los compras.
You don't buy them.

Nunca lo estudiáis.
You never study it.

Él no nos ve jamás.
He never sees us.

Ellos no me odian.
They don't hate me.

ejercicio I-9-4

Unless otherwise indicated, you = second-person singular.

1. I don't have it (m.).

2. She doesn't see it (f.).

3. I don't know him.

4. You don't know me.

5. They don't buy it (f.).

6. He doesn't write it (m.).

7. They don't read them (m.).

8. She doesn't earn it (m.).

9. I don't wear it (m.).

10. We don't see you.

11. You don't have it (f.).

12. They don't see it (m.).

13. He doesn't know me.

14. They don't know us.

15. We don't use it (m.).

16. She doesn't read it (m.).

17. We don't sing them (f.).

18. You (pl., formal) don't have it (m.).

19. You never wear them (m.).

20. You never see us.
Placement in Affirmative Sentences with Two Verbs

In a statement (or clause) that contains two verbs—the first verb is conjugated and the second one remains in the infinitive form—you have two options:

1. Place the direct object pronoun immediately before the first verb (conjugated).
2. Attach the direct object pronoun directly to the second verb (infinitive).

Note: Both options are used in writing and in conversation; however, the second option is used more frequently.

examples:

Te quiero ver. / Quiero verte.
I want to see you.

Lo puedes beber. / Puedes beberlo.
You can drink it.

Él nos debe visitar. / Él debe visitarnos.
He should visit us.

Lo queremos comprar. / Queremos comprarlo.
We want to buy it.

La podéis comer. / Podéis comérsela.
You can eat it.

Els lo deben ver. / Ellos deben verlo.
They should see it.

ejercicio I-9-5

Fill in the blank with the direct object pronoun attached to the infinitive.

1. Yo necesito lavar la ropa. Yo necesito ________________.
2. Tú quieres comer la pizza. Tú quieres ________________.
3. Ella tiene que escribir el informe. Ella tiene que ________________.
4. Debemos limpiar la casa. Debemos ________________.
5. El pianista puede tocar las canciones. El pianista puede ________________.
6. Ellos pueden bailar el tango. Ellos pueden ________________.
8. El gato puede ver el ratón (mouse). El gato puede ________________.
9. Ella quiere conocer a tu madre. Ella quiere ________________.
10. Prefiero oír la verdad. Prefiero ________________.
12. La cocinera va a preparar las tortillas. La cocinera va a ________________.
14. Ellos quieren conocer a mis hermanos. Ellos quieren _________________.

15. Queremos visitar el museo. Queremos _________________.

**ejercicio 1-9-6**

*For items 1–5, place the direct object pronoun before the conjugated verb. For items 6–10, attach the direct object pronoun to the infinitive.*

1. He wants to see me. ________________

2. She wants to kiss him. ________________

3. You (s., fam.) should eat them (m.). ________________

4. They have to do it (f). ________________

5. We want to meet them (f). ________________

6. She has to sing it (f). ________________

7. I should read it (m.). ________________

8. I want to see you (s., fam.) tomorrow. ________________

9. They need to have it (m.) by (para) tomorrow. ________________

10. Juan can see us. ________________

**Placement in Questions and Negative Sentences with Two Verbs**

For questions and/or negative statements with two verbs, the direct object pronoun can be placed before the conjugated verb or attached directly to the infinitive.

*examples:*

No tengo que leerlo. / No lo tengo que leer.  
I don't have to read it.

No queremos hacerlo. / No lo queremos hacer.  
We don't want to do it.

¿Tienes que estudiarlo conmigo? / ¿Lo tienes que estudiar conmigo?  
Do you have to study it with me?

¿Podéis soportarlo? / ¿Lo podéis soportar?  
Can you stand it?

Usted no debe ponerlo aquí.  
¿Piensan en venderlo?  
You shouldn't put it here.  
Are you thinking of selling it?
ejercicio I-9-7

For this exercise, attach the direct object pronoun to the infinitive form. Unless otherwise indicated, you = second-person singular.

1. Do you want to see it (f.) with me? ____________________________________________

2. Are you going to eat it (m.)? ________________________________________________

3. Should we drink it (f.) now, or should we put it in the refrigerator? ______________

4. Can we eat it (m.), or should we throw it into (a) the garbage? __________________

5. You shouldn’t put them (m.) in the living room. _________________________________

6. If you don’t want to have it (f.), you should put it in the box and return (devolver) it.
   __________________________________________________________

7. I can’t wear them (m.) to a formal party. ______________________________________

8. Why can’t you see me? _____________________________________________________

9. You don’t have to do it (m.) today. ___________________________________________

10. Do you want to open them (f.) in the morning and close them in the evening? _____

   ________________________________________________________________

   ejercicio I-9-8

For this exercise, place the direct object pronoun before the conjugated verb. Unless otherwise indicated, you = second-person singular.

1. I don’t want to see you (m., pl., formal) tonight. _________________________________

2. You shouldn’t return (devolver) it (f). _________________________________________

3. Why can’t you say it (m.)? _________________________________________________

4. We are not going to see her at (en) the library. _________________________________

5. She can’t throw them (f.) in (a) the garbage. _________________________________

6. When can I see them (f.)? _________________________________________________
7. If you don't want to hear it (m.), you can turn off (apagar) the radio.

8. Where do you want to store (guardar) them (m.)? Can we put them here?

9. Are you (pl., formal) going to sell it (f.)?

10. No, you cannot hit (golpear) him!

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**ejercicio**

I know that Marcos has my money, my shoes, and the table and chairs for my dining room. He thinks (believes) that I don't know this, but, yes, I know it. First, the money. I know that he has it because I can see it in that drawer (over there). Second, the shoes. I need them because if I don’t wear them, I can’t run fast or (ni) jump well. Third, the table. I don’t know why (por qué) he has it or (ni) why he wants it. I want to put it in my new house. He believes that the chairs are his, but it’s not true. They are mine. And I want them now.

**vocabulario**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dining room</td>
<td>el comedor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drawer</td>
<td>la gaveta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>first</td>
<td>primero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(to) jump</td>
<td>saltar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>now</td>
<td>ahora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>second</td>
<td>segundo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>third</td>
<td>tercero</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>true</td>
<td>verdad</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Indirect Object Pronouns

The indirect object answers the question To or for whom? or To or for what? with regard to the verb in a sentence or clause. Another way of looking at it is to say that the indirect object tells us where the direct object is going.

Consider the sentence, “I give you the gift (I give the gift to you).” The direct object is the gift, because this answers the question What (do I give)? The indirect object, then, is you because I am giving it (the gift) to you. You is where the gift is going.

In the sentence “He buys me flowers (He buys flowers for me),” the direct object is flowers (because that is what he buys), and the indirect object is me because I am the one for whom he buys the flowers.

The indirect object pronouns in Spanish are as follows:

| Singular       | Plural
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>me (me)</td>
<td>nos (us)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>te (you)</td>
<td>os (you)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>le (him; her; you; it)</td>
<td>les (them; you)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In a sentence with an indirect object, there is always a direct object, either stated or implied. In the sentence “My grandmother writes me every week,” me is the indirect object because my grandmother is writing something (a note, a letter, a postcard, an e-mail message) to me. The direct object is understood.
In the following sentences, identify the direct object and the indirect object. Note that some direct objects are understood; please identify them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Direct Object</th>
<th>Indirect Object</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. John tells me a story.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. She buys him nothing.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. They send us food.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The chef cooks us a meal.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. The cannibal cooks us for his friends.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. He tells you.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. I bought you a ring.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. He buys drinks for everyone.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. You write me every week.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. They sold the diamonds to her.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Placement in Affirmative Sentences**

In an affirmative statement (or clause) with one verb, the indirect object pronoun will immediately precede the conjugated verb.

Note that each of the following examples has two possible English translations. English allows for two ways to express the indirect object: (a) between the verb and the direct object and (b) in a prepositional phrase following the direct object.

**Examples:**

- **Juan me compra un libro.**
  - John buys me a book.
  - John buys a book for me.

- **Ella nos dijo una mentira.**
  - She told us a lie.
  - She told a lie to us.

- **Yo te digo la verdad siempre.**
  - I always tell you the truth.
  - I always tell the truth to you.

- **Os damos el dinero.**
  - We give you the money.
  - We give the money to you.

- **Ella le escribe una carta.**
  - She writes him a letter.
  - She writes a letter to him.

- **Él les canta una canción.**
  - He sings them a song.
  - He sings a song to them.
Fill in each blank with the appropriate indirect object pronoun.

2. Marta cuenta la historia a nosotros. Marta ______ cuenta la historia.
3. Los padres leen el libro al niño. Los padres ______ leen el libro.
4. Escribo una carta a mis abuelos. ______ escribo una carta.
5. Felipe da un anillo a Juana. Felipe ______ da un anillo.
6. Vendemos la casa a Marta. ______ vendemos la casa.
7. Traigo el maquillaje (makeup) a Mary Kay. ______ traigo el maquillaje.
9. Compras la falda para mí. ______ compras la falda.
10. Martín planta un árbol para nosotros. Martín ______ planta un árbol.
11. Ella escribe una carta a ustedes. Ella ______ escribe una carta.
12. Enviamos el regalo a vosotros. ______ enviamos el regalo.
13. Sirvo la comida a ellas. ______ sirvo la comida.
15. El mesero sirve la bebida a Isabel. El mesero ______ sirve la bebida.

1. I tell him the truth. _________________________________________________
2. He tells lies to me all the time. _______________________________________
3. We give her the flowers. _____________________________________________
4. I write them a letter every week. _____________________________________
5. They write to us every month. _________________________________________
6. She sings him a song. _______________________________________________
7. John is my assistant (el ayudante), and I dictate (dictar) a letter to him.

8. I always tell her that she's pretty.

9. I send them a card (la tarjeta) for their anniversary.

10. What do they give you (s., fam.) for your birthday every year?

Placement in Negative Sentences

In a negative statement (or clause) with one verb, the indirect object pronoun is placed between the word no (or other term of negation) and the conjugated verb.

examples:

- **Él no me trae nada.**
  He doesn't bring **me** anything.

- **La médica no te da medicina.**
  The doctor doesn't give **you** medicine.

- **No le envío la cuenta jamás.**
  I **never** send **him** the bill.

- **Ellos no nos dicen la verdad.**
  They **don't** tell **us** the truth.

- **Nunca os damos regalos.**
  We **never** give **you** gifts.

- **No les vendes el pan.**
  You **don't** sell **them** the bread.

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**ejercicio I-10-4**

Unless otherwise indicated, you = second-person singular.

1. He doesn't tell me anything.

2. I don't tell him anything.

3. They never send him anything because they don't know his address.

4. I don't give her money.

5. The waiter doesn't sing "Happy Birthday" to you.

6. Why don't they tell her the truth?

7. Why don't they buy you (pl., fam.) a computer (la computadora)?
8. I serve them dinner, but they never thank (dar las gracias) me.

9. If you (pl., formal) don’t ask me questions (hacer preguntas), I don’t tell you lies.

10. We don’t lend (prestar) them money.

Placement in Affirmative Sentences with Two Verbs

In a statement (or clause) that contains two verbs—the first verb is conjugated and the second one remains in its infinitive form—you have two options:

1. Place the indirect object pronoun immediately before the first verb (conjugated).
2. Attach the indirect object pronoun directly to the second verb (infinitive).

Note: Both options are used in writing and in conversation; however, the second option is used more frequently.

examples:

- Él quiere darle un regalo. / Él le quiere dar un regalo.
- Tú necesitas comprar algo. / Tú nos necesitas comprar algo.
- Puedo decirtelo todo. / Te puedo decir todo.
- Preferimos prestarnos el dinero. / Os preferimos prestar el dinero.
- Él quiere venderle el coche. / Él le quiere vender el coche.
- Ella debe alquilarles la casa. / Ella les debe alquilar la casa.

ejercicio I-10-5

Fill in the blank with the indirect object pronoun attached to the infinitive.

1. Quiero dar el libro a Jorge. Quiero ___________ el libro.
3. Ella tiene que prestar el dinero a mí. Ella tiene que ___________ el dinero.
4. Debéis alquilar el barco a ellos. Debéis ___________ el barco.

6. Prefiero escribir una carta a Marta. Prefiero __________ una carta.

7. Ellos esperan cantar la canción a vosotros. Ellos esperan __________ la canción.


9. La madre necesita mostrar el amor a su niño. La madre necesita __________ el amor.


11. El arquitecto va a diseñar una casa para mí. El arquitecto va a __________ una casa.


13. Voy a decir mi nombre a ellos. Voy a __________ mi nombre.

14. Juan sólo puede vender los cigarrillos a los adultos. Juan sólo puede __________ los cigarrillos.

15. El mesero debe servir la cena a nosotros con más rapidez. El mesero debe __________ la cena con más rapidez.

**ejercicio** I-10-6

For items 1–5, place the indirect object pronoun before the conjugated verb. For items 6–10, attach the indirect object pronoun to the infinitive.

1. I want to give him a gift. __________

2. He needs to tell me the truth. __________

3. We should write her a letter. __________

4. You (s., fam.) should write to us more often (más a menudo). __________

5. You (pl., formal) have to tell them the truth. __________

6. We should give them olive oil (el aceite de oliva). __________

7. He wants to buy her a diamond (el diamante). __________

8. When he comes to our house, he always wants to bring (traer) us something. __________
Spanish Pronouns and Prepositions

9. I can send you (s., fam.) these vases (el florero) through the mail (por correo).

10. You (pl., fam.) need to tell him something.

Placement in Questions and Negative Sentences with Two Verbs

For questions and/or negative statements with two verbs, the indirect object pronoun can be placed before the conjugated verb or attached directly to the infinitive.

examples:

¿Quién va a enviarme una cuenta? / ¿Quién me va a enviar una cuenta?
Who is going to send me a bill?

Él no necesita darnos la información. / Él no nos necesita dar la información.
He doesn't need to give us the information.

¿Debemos decirte la verdad? / ¿Te debemos decir la verdad?
Should we tell you the truth?

No quiero venderos estos collares. / No os quiero vender estos collares.
I don't want to sell you these necklaces.

Nunca podéis comprarle la felicidad. / Nunca le podéis comprar la felicidad.
You can never buy happiness for her.

No tengo que decirles nada. / No les tengo que decir nada.
I don't have to tell them anything.

ejercicio I-10-7

Use both options to express each statement or question. Unless otherwise indicated, you = second-person singular.

1. Do you want to bring me a kitten?

2. We're not going to show them our new house.

3. Do you want to sell them these paintings?

4. Who is going to pay me the money?
5. Can you send the furniture (*los muebles*) to us by (*para*) Tuesday?

6. The artist can't paint her a picture (*el cuadro*) by June.

7. I'm not going to wash your clothing for you.

8. We don’t want to tell you (*pl., formal*) the bad news (*las malas noticias*).

9. When can you (*pl., fam.*) build (*construir*) the building (*el edificio*) for us?

10. Should you read her such a letter (*tal carta*)?

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**The Redundant Use of the Indirect Object Pronoun**

Even though the principal purpose of any pronoun is to replace a noun, there are times when it is clearer or more emphatic to use both the noun or pronoun and a + the pronoun or noun. This is done primarily with the indirect object pronoun and more frequently with some verbs (see the following list). At such times, the indirect object is usually in the third person.

The following verbs frequently take both a noun or pronoun and a + the appropriate pronoun:

- **comprar** to buy
- **dar** to give
- **decir** to say; to tell
- **escribir** to write
- **traer** to make or do
- **Enviar** to send
- **Pedir** to ask (a favor); to request (from)
- **Preguntar** to ask (a question)
- **Preparar** to prepare
- **Regalar** to give (a gift)
- **Hacer** to bring

**Examples:**

- Yo le doy a Juan cinco dólares.
- Manuel les escribe a sus padres cada semana.
- Le pido a mi jefe un aumento.
- Manuel les escribe a sus padres cada semana.
- Le pido a mi jefe un aumento.

As you can see in the preceding examples, the addition of a + a noun or pronoun neither replaces nor adds necessary information. Thus, technically, it is redundant.

Since the redundant prepositional phrase is not necessary, why do we add it? One reason is that the third-person noun or pronoun helps us clarify the ambiguous, pronoun le. Another reason is that the prepositional phrase adds emphasis to the noun or pronoun. In other words, they help each other.
For clarity:
Le conté el chiste. I told (him? her? you?) the joke.
Le conté a Juan el chiste. I told Juan the joke.
Le conté el chiste a él. I told him the joke.
Le conté el chiste a usted. I told you the joke.
Le conté el chiste a ella. I told her the joke.

For emphasis:
Juan me contó a mí ese chiste. Juan told me that joke.
¿Juan te contó ese chiste a ti? Juan told you that joke?
Juan nos contó ese chiste a nosotros. Juan told us that joke.
Juan les contó ese chiste a ellas. Juan told them that joke.

A final reason for using the redundant construction is that this is the way it’s done. Perhaps this is not a satisfying answer in the rational sense; however, all languages, like all people, have their distinct charms that defy reason. The redundant use of a + a noun or pronoun is part of the charm of Spanish.

**ejercicio** I-10-8

In a sentence with two verbs, choose one of the options (pronoun before the conjugated verb or attached to the infinitive) to express the sentence in Spanish. Unless otherwise indicated, you = second-person singular.

1. I tell Juan everything. ____________________________________________
2. I want to tell him everything. ____________________________________________
3. She writes to her aunt every month. ____________________________________________
4. Why do you bring so much (tanto) to Mateo? ____________________________________________
5. She gives the documents to her attorney (el abogado). ____________________________________________
6. She has to give the money to the police (la policía). ____________________________________________
7. Margarita is giving (regalar) us a TV set! ____________________________________________
8. Oliver wants to give (regalar) me a watch from Cartier! ____________________________________________
9. A: What are you making for (a) your friends? B: I’m making them a cake (la torta). ____________________________________________
10. I bring them a newspaper every morning. ____________________________________________
11. I usually buy them (f) clothing for (para) Christmas.

12. What should we buy her?


14. Are they going to send you (pl., formal) anything this year?

15. George Washington cannot tell a lie (la mentira) to anyone.

Redundant use of Indirect object pronoun

1. I buy the newspaper for my father.

2. He told the dog “no.”

3. They answered their mother.

4. Robert bought flowers for Mary.

5. He wrote his girlfriend a poem (su novia un poema)

6. I asked Paul if he wanted to go.

7. I asked the teacher.

8. Mother prepared food for the children.

9. You brought your friends candy.

10. I gave my mother a gift.
Gustar et al.
revisited
Indirect Object Pronouns with *gustar*

There is a group of Spanish verbs which, to the native English speaker's notion of syntax, work in reverse. The most commonly used of these verbs is *gustar* (to be pleasing to), hence the title of this section.

While in English, one says "I like the bread," in Spanish, to get this same message across, one says, "Me gusta el pan," which literally means, "The bread is pleasing to me." The bread is now the subject, and *I* has become the indirect object.

Because the bread is pleasing to me—remember that the indirect object often contains or implies the preposition *to*—we will need the indirect object pronoun in this sentence, as well as in all sentences that use the verb *gustar* (and the other verbs that operate in the manner of *gustar*).

The key to the verbs in this section is to remember that they nearly always operate in the third-person singular and plural forms. The things being discussed have their effect on people: Chicago fascinates me; traffic bothers you; autobiographies interest her; money is not important to him.

To work with *gustar*, and verbs like it, you will use the following recipe:

indirect object pronoun + third-person (s. or pl.) verb + noun(s)

examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular Subject (noun)</th>
<th>Plural Subject (noun)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Me gusta la pintura.</td>
<td>Me gustan las pinturas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Te gusta el anillo.</td>
<td>Te gustan los anillos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le gusta el zorro.</td>
<td>Le gustan los zorros.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nos gusta la culebra.</td>
<td>Nos gustan las culebras.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Os gusta la lámpara.</td>
<td>Os gustan las lámparas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les gusta el reloj.</td>
<td>Les gustan los relojes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I like the painting(s).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You like the ring(s).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He/She likes the fox(es).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We like the snake(s).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You like the lamp(s).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They like the clock(s).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:

1. In discussing actions that one likes to do, substitute an infinitive for the noun.

   Me gusta correr.  No me gusta ni correr ni nadar.
   I like to run.    I don't like to run or swim.

2. For clarification in the third person, precede the phrase with the preposition *a* + the person's name or the corresponding pronoun.

   A Madonna le gusta cantar.
   *Madonna* likes to sing.

   A Tom Hanks le gusta actuar. A él le gusta dirigir también.
   *Tom Hanks* likes to act. He also likes to direct.

3. Otherwise, adding the person's name or pronoun adds emphasis.

   A mí me gusta el té. A ti te gustan los deportes.
   I *(emphasized)* like tea. You *(emphasized)* like sports.

4. When what one likes is simply *it* (as in, "I like it"), *it* will not translate because technically the word *it* is the subject of the sentence ("It pleases me"), and *it* (or its plural form *they*) is understood.

   Me gusta. Me gustan.
   *I like it.* *I like them.*
Use _gustar_ to answer the following questions either affirmatively or negatively—whichever is true for you. Follow the pattern given in item 1 below.

1. ¿Te gusta la leche? _Sí, me gusta la leche._ / _No, no me gusta la leche._

2. ¿Te gustan los dramas de Shakespeare?

3. ¿Te gusta comer en el coche?

4. ¿Te gusta limpiar la casa?

5. ¿Te gustan los platos (dishes) exóticos?

6. ¿Te gustan las películas de horror?

7. ¿Te gusta correr?

8. ¿Te gusta memorizar los verbos españoles?

9. ¿Te gustan los mosquitos?

10. ¿Te gusta conducir en la hora punta (rush hour)?

**Other Verbs That Take the Indirect Object Pronoun**

There are several Spanish verbs that operate in the manner of _gustar_—that is, they take the indirect object pronoun and demonstrate the effect that something or someone has on a person.

The most common of these verbs include the following:

- **basta**r: to be sufficient/enough to; to suffice
- **caer bien (mal)**: to like (dislike); to go well (badly) with
- **disgustar**: to be disgusting to; to “hate” (a thing)
- **doler (o→ue)**: to be painful to; to hurt
- **encantar**: to be enchanting to; to “love” (a thing)
- **faltar**: to be lacking to; to be missing to; to need (a thing)
- **fascinar**: to be fascinating to
- **importar**: to be important to
- **interesar**: to be interesting to
- **molestar**: to be bothersome to; to bother
- **parecer**: to seem; to appear to
- **sobrar**: to be left over to; to be in surplus
- **volver (o→ue) loco/a**: to be crazy about or for (more intense than _encantar_)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Spanish Word</th>
<th>Spanish Meaning</th>
<th>English Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>faltar</td>
<td>a</td>
<td>to be interesting to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>importar</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>to miss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>gustar</td>
<td>c</td>
<td>to matter to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>bastar</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>to like</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>parecer</td>
<td>e</td>
<td>to seem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>preocupar</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>to be left over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>interesar</td>
<td>g</td>
<td>to love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>encantar</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>to suffice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>fascinar</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>to lack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>sobrar</td>
<td>j</td>
<td>to be crazy about</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>disgustar</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>to be fascinating to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>molestar</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>to hurt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>doler</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>to worry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>volver loco</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>to be repugnant to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>hacer falta</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>to bother</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
¿Verdadero o falso?

1. Cuando me duele la cabeza, tomo una aspirina.
2. Me importa la verdad.
3. La arquitectura de Frank Lloyd Wright me fascina.
4. Los anuncios (commercials) en la televisión me molestan mucho.
5. Me disgustan las personas que gruñen (grumble) todo el tiempo.
6. A un millonario le sobra el dinero.
7. A los actores de Hollywood les encanta ganar el "Oscar".
8. Me falta el dinero para comprar un diamante de cinco quilates.
9. A muchos jugadores de tenis les duelen los codos.
10. No me importa tener mucho dinero ni vivir en una casa lujosa.
11. No me interesan los chismes (gossip).
12. A mí me parece que las joyas de Tiffany's son las mejores.
13. Me vuelve loco/a el chocolate.
15. Me caen bien mis amigos.
16. Me cae mal la carne con chocolate.

---

 ejercicio | 1-10-10

This exercise uses the verbs in the preceding list. Sometimes, clues to the appropriate verb are given in parentheses. Unless otherwise indicated, you = second-person singular.

1. This book fascinates me.

2. I don't want anything more. I have enough food. (The food is sufficient for me.)


4. I hate this movie. (This movie is disgusting to me.)
5. My eyes hurt.

6. Nothing is important to him and nothing interests him. How (qué) sad!

7. I’m missing a button (el botón) on my shirt.

8. We love your new house!

9. What’s bothering you?

10. These magazines seem absurd (absurdo) to me.

11. After the holidays (los días de fiesta), they don’t have (any) money left over.

12. He hates coffee, but I love it.

13. I’m crazy about this play (la obra de teatro).

14. I don’t like cookies with raisins. (Cookies with raisins don’t go well with me.)

15. She loves sports, but he hates them.

---

**traducción 1-10-11**

Note: The focus here is on indirect object pronouns; however, because these translations are cumulative, there will be direct object pronouns, as well as other types previously covered.

I have a new neighbor. He lives next door to me. He seems (to me) very nice. I want to give him something that he likes. I can make a cake for him or I can write him a note that says (to him), “Welcome to the neighborhood!” I can see him now. These binoculars are great! I can see it all now. I think that I’m going to watch him for a while. No one sees me when I use my binoculars because I turn out all the lights. I love these binoculars. I don’t know what I ought to do. I’m going to ask my aunt what she thinks. She always gives me good advice.
GUSTAR et al.

Translate the following

1. I'm crazy about chocolate (volver loco).
2. He's crazy about chocolate.
3. We're crazy about chocolate.
4. The dog seems tired to me (parecer cansado).
5. The dog seems tired to us.
6. Spanish class is important to me (importar).
7. Spanish class is important to them.
8. Spanish class is important to him.
9. The movie fascinates me (fascinar).
10. The movie fascinates you.
11. He hates this movie (disgustar).
12. He hates dogs.
13. They love to listen to music.
14. He seems (to me) very nice.
15. I'm missing a book.
16. We're missing the tickets (los boletos).
17. He's missing the tickets.
18. I have 5 dollars left over.
20. You have 5 dollars left over.
GUSTAR et al. PAST TENSE

Translate the following

1. I was crazy about chocolate (volver loco).
2. He was crazy about chocolate.
3. We were crazy about chocolate.
4. The dog seemed tired to me (parecer cansado).
5. The dog seemed tired to us.
6. Spanish class was important to me (importar).
7. Spanish class was important to them.
8. Spanish class was important to him.
9. The movie fascinated me (fascinar).
10. The movie fascinated you.
11. He hated this movie (disgustar).
12. He hated dogs.
13. They loved to listen to music.
14. He seemed (to me) very nice.
15. I was missing a book.
16. We were missing the tickets (los boletos).
17. He was missing the tickets.
18. I had 5 dollars left over.
19. You were missing a book.
20. You had 5 dollars left over.