

Gramática

Complemento Directo

Complemento Directo

In English, pronouns replace nouns previously mentioned to avoid unnecessarily repeating them.

For example, in the sentence, "John did not come to work, because he was sick," the pronoun **he** is used to replace the proper noun **John**.

We have seen that pronouns can be used in the same way in Spanish.

For example, the above sentence in Spanish would be: **Juan no vino a trabajar, porque él estaba enfermo**. The pronoun **él** replaces the proper noun **Juan**.

Complemento Directo

There is another way in which pronouns are used: to avoid unnecessarily repeating the direct object of a sentence.

The direct object is the object that the action in the sentence is happening to.

For example, in the sentence, "The cat ate the mouse," the "cat" is the subject, "ate" is the verb, and "mouse" is the direct object.

If you wanted to replace the direct object noun with a pronoun, you could say, "The cat ate it." The pronoun "it" would refer to the mouse.

Complemento Directo

◆ The direct object receives the action of the verb. It answers the question “whom” or “what” after the verb. The direct object can be a noun or a pronoun.

-We ate tacos.	What did we eat?	Tacos.	Tacos is the direct object.
-They invited John.	Whom did they invite?	John.	John is the direct object.

◆ In English, nouns are replaced by pronouns. If we didn't have pronouns, we would have to keep repeating the noun, and our speech would become cumbersome. For example:

-Do you see John ?	-No, I don't see John .
-Did you call Mary and Ana ?	-No, I didn't call Mary and Ana .

With pronouns, we can simplify this.

-Do you see John ?	→	-Do you see him ?
-No, I don't see John	→	-No, I don't see him
-Did you call Mary and Ana ?	→	-Did you call them ?
-No, I didn't call Mary and Ana .	→	-No, I didn't call them .

Complemento Directo

In Spanish, the construction of direct object pronouns is a bit different from English. The direct object comes before the verb, not afterwards. For example:

Estela tiene el libro.

Estela has the book.

becomes

becomes

Estela lo tiene.

Estela has it.

Estoy comprando unos zapatos.

I am buying some shoes.

becomes

becomes

Los estoy comprando.

I am buying them.

Complemento Directo

◆ In Spanish, nouns are also replaced by pronouns. We have already learned the subject pronouns. There are also direct object pronouns. Study the following chart.

subject pronouns*		direct object pronouns	
yo	I	me	me
tú	you	te	you
él	he	lo	him; it (masc.)
ella	she	la	her; it (fem.)
usted	you	lo, la	you (masc. & fem.)
nosotros	we	nos	us
nosotras			
vosotros	you (pl.) familiar	os	you (pl) familiar
vosotras			
ellos	they	los	them - masculine
ellas		las	them - feminine
ustedes	you (pl.) formal	los, las	you (pl. m. & f.) formal

Complemento Directo

Using the noun

- Do you see **John**? ¿Ves a **Juan**?
- No, I don't see **John**. No, no veo a **Juan**.
- Did you call **Mary and Ana**? ¿Llamaste a **María y a Ana**?
- No, I didn't call **Mary and Ana**. No, no llamé a **María y a Ana**.
- Do you have the **book**? ¿Tienes el **libro**?
- Did you read the **magazine**? ¿Leíste la **revista**?

Substituting the pronoun

- Do you see **him**? ¿**Lo** ves?
- No, I don't see **him**. No, no **lo** veo.
- Did you call **them**? ¿**Las** llamaste?
- No, I didn't call **them**. No, no **las** llamé.
- Do you have **it**? ¿**Lo** tienes?
- Did you read **it**? ¿**La** leíste?

Complemento Directo

	Spanish	English
<i>Direct object expressed</i>	(Tú) llevas el libro	You take/carry the book
<i>Direct object pronoun</i>	(Tú) lo llevas	You take/carry it
<i>Direct object expressed</i>	Ella rompe la silla	She breaks the chair
<i>Direct object pronoun</i>	Ella la rompe	She breaks it
<i>Direct object expressed</i>	Ustedes secuestran los perros	You [all] kidnap the dogs
<i>Direct object pronoun</i>	Ustedes los secuestran	You [all] kidnap them
<i>Direct object expressed</i>	El interrumpe la fiesta	He interrupts the party
<i>Direct object pronoun</i>	El la interrumpe	He interrupts it

Complemento Directo

Examples:

Do you see Claudia? Yes, I see her.
("her" is used to replace "Claudia")

¿(Tú) Ves a Claudia? Sí, la veo.
("la" is used to replace "Claudia").

Did you buy the book? Yes, I bought it.
¿(Tú) Compraste el libro? Sí, lo compré.

Are you buying the book? Yes, I'm buying it.
¿(Tú) Estás comprando el libro? Sí, lo estoy comprando.

Complemento Directo

Examples:

Are you going to buy the book? Yes, I'm going to buy it.
¿(Tú) Vas a comprar el libro? Sí, lo voy a comprar.

Do you want coffee? Yes, I want it.
¿(Tú) Quieres café? Sí, lo quiero.

For negative sentences:

Do you see Claudia? No, I don't see her.
¿(Tú) Ves a Claudia? No, no la veo.

Complemento Directo

Examples:

Do you see Rodrigo and Alfredo? Yes, I see them.
 ¿(Tú) Ves a Rodrigo y Alfredo? Sí, los veo.

Phrases with two verbs:

She needs to buy it.	Ella lo necesita comprar.
	Ella necesita comprarlo.

I'm listening to you.	Te estoy escuchando.
	Estoy escuchándote.

We are going to eat it.	La vamos a comer.
	Vamos a comerla.

They want to play it.	Lo quieren jugar.
	Quieren jugarlo.