

Gramática

Complementos
Directo e Indirecto

Complementos Directo e Indirecto

Now that you've learned about direct and indirect object pronouns, what happens if you want to use them together?

The sentences that follow are examples of both object pronouns being used together. The direct object is **purple**, while the indirect object is **orange**.

Does Hector give them to you ?	- ¿Te los da Héctor?
They ask us for it.	- Ellos nos lo piden.
I need to give it to him tomorrow.	- Necesito dárselo mañana.

Complementos Directo e Indirecto

To refresh your memory, the direct and indirect object pronouns that you will use in combination are as follows:

Direct Object Pronoun

me

te

lo/la

nos

os

los/las

Indirect Object Pronoun

me

te

le (se)

nos

os

les (se)

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When you combine the direct and indirect object pronouns in a sentence, you have two options.

You can put the indirect object pronoun, followed by the direct object pronoun, as two separate words before the verb.

Te lo voy a dar. I'm going to give it to you.

You can attach the indirect object pronoun and the direct object pronoun onto the end of an infinitive or a present participle.

Voy a dártelo. I'm going to give it to you.

Estoy comprándotelo. I'm buying it for you.

(Note that you must add an accent on the infinitive or present participle ending to preserve the correct pronunciation.)

Complemento Directo e Indirecto

Which Object Comes First?

In English, you can switch the order of the direct and indirect objects.

I will give it to him. or I will give him it.
Hector gave them to you. or Hector gave you them.

In Spanish, on the other hand, the indirect object pronoun will ALWAYS come before the direct object pronoun.

Mi profesor **me** enseña a hablar español.
 Mi profesor **me lo** enseña.

Nos arreglan los boletos de avión.
Nos los arreglan.

Paula **te** repara la computadora.
 Paula **te la** repara.

Jorge **le** pide los libros a Carla.
 Jorge **se los** pide.

Complemento Directo e Indirecto

Why Does 'Le' Change to 'Se'?

As with so many irregularities in the Spanish language, the change of the indirect object pronoun in the third person makes pronunciation easier.

Try saying, "Le lo voy a dar."

Now, try saying, "Se lo voy a dar." (I'm going to give it to him.)

Can you hear why 'le' change to 'se'?

Les servimos la comida.

Se la servimos.

Les muestra la casa.

Se la muestra.

Les explican los chistes a Uds.

Se los explican.

Complemento Directo e Indirecto

To Whom? Clarifying "Se"

The word "se" can refer to any number of indirect pronouns: him, her, it, them, you.... Just as it is recommended to add a clarification after "le," if your audience does not know to whom you are referring, it is also recommended to add a clarification after the use of "se" if the indirect object is not clear.

To do so, use "se" as you normally would, then append one of the following to the end of your sentence: a Ud., a él, a ella, a Uds., a ellos, a ellas.

¿A quién le servimos la comida? Se la servimos a él.

¿A quién le muestra él la casa? Se la muestra a ellos.

¿A quién les explicamos los chistes? Se los explicamos a Uds.