

# Gramática

## Complemento Indirecto

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Now that you understand the concept of the direct object (i.e., the object to which the action is being done in a sentence), you are ready to look at the concept of the indirect object.

An indirect object is the person or thing for whom an action is being or has been performed, usually indicated in English by the words "to" or "for."

For instance, take a look at the following sentence:

Jenny is writing a letter to her father.

The **subject** in this sentence is "Jenny," and the **verb** is "is writing." The **direct object** is "letter." The **indirect object**—the person or thing for whom the action is being performed—is "father."

## Complemento Indirecto

You could also say the sentence in the following way:

Jenny is writing a letter to him.

Him refers to Jenny's father. In this sentence, the indirect object noun has been replaced by a pronoun.

You can do the same thing in Spanish, if you know the indirect object pronouns.

Jenny le escribe una carta.

Unlike in English, the indirect object pronouns go directly before the verb. If the sentence is negative (has a "no" in it), the indirect object pronoun still goes directly before the verb.

# Complemento Indirecto

◆ **Indirect Objects** tell to whom or for whom the action of the verb is performed (to whom or for whom something is done or given.) I gave John my ticket. To whom did I give my ticket?  
John.

◆ 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:

Did you give Joe and Ann the money? No, I thought you gave Joe and Ann the money!

But see how pronouns can make speaking simpler:

Did you give them the money? No, I thought you gave it to them!

# Complemento Indirecto

Por ejemplo:

No voy a invitar a Pedro y Ernesto a la fiesta.

- I'm not going to invite Peter and Ernest to the party.

No les voy a invitar a la fiesta.

- I'm not going to invite them to the party.

Lupe está hablando con nosotros.

- Lupe is talking with us.

Lupe nos está hablando.

- Lupe is talking with us.

1. Quiero comprar un regalo para Teresa.

- I want to buy a gift for Teresa.

Le quiero comprar un regalo.

- I want to buy her a gift.



# Complemento Indirecto

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

subject pronouns*		indirect object pronouns	to or for
yo	I	me	me
tú	you	te	you
él ella usted	he she you	le	him her you
nosotros nosotras	we	nos	us
vosotros vosotras	you (pl.) familiar	os	you (pl) familiar
ellos ellas ustedes	they  you (pl.) formal	les	them  you (pl.) formal

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Sometimes Spanish uses an indirect object pronoun when English would have used an object of the preposition.

I write him a letter.  
I write a letter to him.

Le escribo una carta.  
Le escribo una carta.

**Note that the construction is the same in Spanish**

We give them a party.  
We give a party for them.

Les damos una fiesta.  
Les damos una fiesta.

**Note that the construction is the same in Spanish**

	Spanish	English
<i>With prepositional clause</i>	(Tú) <b>Le</b> das el libro <b>a</b> Pedro	You give the book <b>to</b> Pedro
<i>No prepositional clause</i>	(Tú) <b>Le</b> das el libro	You give <b>him</b> the book [incorrect to express a prepositional clause].
<i>With prepositional clause</i>	Yo <b>te</b> doy el libro [a <b>ti</b> : redundant/emphasis]	I give the book to <b>you</b>
<i>No prepositional clause</i>	Yo <b>te</b> doy el libro	I give <b>you</b> the book.

## Complemento Indirecto

To Whom? Adding Clarity to "Le" and "Les"

When you use the indirect pronouns 'le' or 'les', you could be referring to anyone: you, him, her, them! English is much more specific than Spanish in that sense.

For that reason, if it is unknown or unclear to whom the indirect object pronoun is referring, it's a good idea to use proper nouns in addition to the indirect object pronoun.

Por ejemplo:

**Les invito a ti y a Juan.**      - I'm inviting **you and Juan.**

1. **Jenny le está escribiendo una carta a su padre.**

- Jenny is writing a letter to her father.

2. **Carlos quiere darles algo a ustedes.**

- Carlos wants to give you something.

3. **Le voy a llamar a Juan mañana.**

- I'm going to call John tomorrow.



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Examples:

Yo **te** sirvo el almuerzo **a ti**.  
(I serve lunch **to you**.)

Ellos **nos** dan las hamburguesas **a nosotros**.  
(They give burgers **to us**.)

Tú **me** miras **a mí**.  
(You are looking **at me**.)

Nosotros **les** tocamos la guitarra **para Uds**.  
(We play the guitar for **you all**.)

Ella **le** da el queso **a Rita**.  
(She gives the cheese **to Rita**.)

Yo **os** mostré las fotos **a vosotros**.  
(I showed the photos to **you all**.)

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Using negatives:

No le di el libro a Antonio.

No me dio las flores a mí.

Phrases with two verbs:

I want to give him the ticket.

Yo le quiero dar la boleta.

Yo quiero darle la boleta.

I am going to buy them the book.

Yo les voy a comprar el libro.

Yo voy a comprarles el libro.

You are cooking dinner for us.

Tú nos estás cocinando la cena.

Tú estás concinándonos la cena.

You have to bring the homework to me.

Ustedes me tienen que traer la tarea.

Ustedes tienen que traerme la tarea.