

Complementos directos

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In this section, you will practice using *direct object pronouns* to replace nouns. You can already identify nouns and verbs. A direct object is a noun that receives the action of a verb.

Manuela busca **el libro**.

Mi papá manda **la carta**.

Remember that direct objects receive the action of a verb and answer the questions *who?* or *what?* The direct object **pronouns** replace those nouns or noun phrases.

A *direct object pronoun* is used to replace the direct object noun in a sentence.

No gastas **dinero**. → No **lo** gastas.

The direct object pronouns in Spanish are the following:

Direct object pronouns

me (me)	nos us
te (you, sing. informal)	os (you, plural, familiar, Spain)
lo/la (him/her /it/you sing. formal)	los/las (them/you, Uds.)

Direct object pronouns are placed immediately before a conjugated verb:

—¿Tienes **el anuncio**? —Sí, **lo** tengo.

—*Do you have the ad?* —*Yes, I have it.*

Direct object pronouns may also be attached to infinitives and present participles.

—¿Puedo ver los zapatos verdes? —Sí, **los** puedes ver.

—Sí, puedes ver**los**.

—*Can I see the green shoes?* —*Yes, you can see them.*

—¿Estás comprando esa chaqueta ahora? —No, no estoy comprándola ahora.

—No, no **la** estoy comprando ahora.

—*Are you buying that jacket now?* —*No, I am not buying it now.*

In Spanish, you put an **a** before a direct object if it refers to a specific person(s) or a pet. This is usually called *the personal a* and it doesn't have an equivalent in English.

Veo **a** mi madre, **a** mis hermanos y **a** mi perra Sophie en el parque.

I see my mother, my brothers and sisters, and my dog Sophie in the park.

But notice that when you replace the direct object with a direct object pronoun, the **a** is dropped:

Busco **a** la cajera para pagar.

La busco.

You also need the personal **a** before **alguien**, **nadie**, **alguno(s)**, **ninguno(a)**, **nadie**, and **todo(a)**, if they refer to people.

No conozco **a** nadie en mi clase de marketing.

I do not know anyone in my marketing class.

Remember *not* to use the personal **a** after the verb **tener**.

Tengo un hermano y dos hermanas que buscan rebajas.

I have one brother and two sisters who look for sales.

¡**Ojo!** Remember the contraction **a + el = al**.