

Complete Guide to Spanish Pronouns

Guía Completa de Pronombres en Español

IdiomAry

What are Spanish pronouns?

Spanish pronouns (pronombres) are words that replace nouns to avoid repetition and make communication more fluid. Unlike English, Spanish pronouns are more complex because they change based on gender, number, case, and function in the sentence. Mastering Spanish pronouns is essential for natural conversation and advanced Spanish fluency.

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1 Subject Pronouns

Pronombres Sujeto - The actors of the sentence

1.1 Personal Subject Pronouns

- **Yo** - *I* - first person singular
Yo estudio español. - I study Spanish.
Yo soy de Estados Unidos. - I am from the United States.
- **Tú** - *You (informal)* - second person singular
Tú hablas muy bien. - You speak very well.
¿Tú vienes conmigo? - Are you coming with me?
- **Él** - *He* - third person singular masculine
Él trabaja en una oficina. - He works in an office.
Él es mi hermano. - He is my brother.
- **Ella** - *She* - third person singular feminine
Ella cocina muy bien. - She cooks very well.
Ella vive en Madrid. - She lives in Madrid.
- **Usted** - *You (formal)* - formal second person singular
Usted tiene razón. - You are right.
¿Usted habla inglés? - Do you speak English?
- **Nosotros/Nosotras** - *We* - first person plural
Nosotros estudiamos juntos. - We study together.
Nosotras somos amigas. - We are friends (feminine).

1.2 Plural Subject Pronouns

- **Vosotros/Vosotras** - *You all (informal)* - second person plural Spain
Vosotros sois españoles. - You all are Spanish.
Vosotras estáis cansadas. - You all are tired (feminine).
- **Ellos** - *They (masculine/mixed)* - third person plural masculine
Ellos son estudiantes. - They are students.
Ellos vienen mañana. - They come tomorrow.
- **Ellas** - *They (feminine)* - third person plural feminine
Ellas trabajan aquí. - They work here.
Ellas son profesoras. - They are teachers.
- **Ustedes** - *You all (formal/informal in Latin America)* - formal second person plural
Ustedes tienen hambre. - You all are hungry.
¿Ustedes van al cine? - Are you all going to the movies?

Important Note: In Spanish, subject pronouns are often omitted because the verb conjugation indicates the subject. For example, "Hablo español" (I speak Spanish) doesn't need "yo" because "hablo" clearly indicates first person singular.

2 Direct Object Pronouns

Pronombres de Objeto Directo - Receiving the action directly

2.1 Direct Object Pronoun Forms

- **Me** - *Me* - first person singular
María me ve. - María sees me.
Él me llama. - He calls me.
- **Te** - *You (informal)* - second person singular
Te entiendo. - I understand you.
Te invito a cenar. - I invite you to dinner.
- **Lo** - *Him/It (masculine)* - third person singular masculine
Lo conozco bien. - I know him well.
Lo compré ayer. - I bought it yesterday.
- **La** - *Her/It (feminine)* - third person singular feminine
La veo todos los días. - I see her every day.
La necesito ahora. - I need it now.
- **Nos** - *Us* - first person plural
Nos ayuda mucho. - He helps us a lot.
Nos invita a su casa. - He invites us to his house.
- **Os** - *You all (informal Spain)* - second person plural
Os veo mañana. - I see you tomorrow.
Os llamo más tarde. - I call you later.
- **Los** - *Them (masculine)/You all (formal masculine)* - third person plural masculine
Los encuentro interesantes. - I find them interesting.
Los respeto mucho. - I respect you all very much.
- **Las** - *Them (feminine)/You all (formal feminine)* - third person plural feminine
Las veo en el parque. - I see them in the park.
Las felicito por su trabajo. - I congratulate you all on your work.

2.2 Placement of Direct Object Pronouns

- **Before conjugated verbs:**
La como. - I eat it.
Te veo. - I see you.

- **Attached to infinitives:**
Voy a verla. - I'm going to see her.
Quiero comprarlo. - I want to buy it.
- **Attached to present participles:**
Estoy estudiándolo. - I am studying it.
Estamos esperándote. - We are waiting for you.
- **Attached to affirmative commands:**
Cómelo. - Eat it.
Léelo. - Read it.

3 Indirect Object Pronouns

Pronombres de Objeto Indirecto - To whom or for whom

3.1 Indirect Object Pronoun Forms

- **Me** - *To me/For me* - first person singular
Me da un regalo. - He gives me a gift.
Me habla en español. - He speaks to me in Spanish.
- **Te** - *To you/For you (informal)* - second person singular
Te escribo una carta. - I write you a letter.
Te compro flores. - I buy you flowers.
- **Le** - *To him/her/you (formal)* - third person singular
Le digo la verdad. - I tell him the truth.
Le pregunto la hora. - I ask him the time.
- **Nos** - *To us/For us* - first person plural
Nos explica la lección. - He explains the lesson to us.
Nos trae comida. - He brings us food.
- **Os** - *To you all/For you all (informal Spain)* - second person plural
Os doy mi número. - I give you my number.
Os mando saludos. - I send you greetings.
- **Les** - *To them/you all (formal)* - third person plural
Les leo un cuento. - I read them a story.
Les pido ayuda. - I ask them for help.

3.2 Common Verbs with Indirect Objects

- **Gustar (to like):**
Me gusta el café. - I like coffee.
Te gustan las flores. - You like flowers.

- **Dar (to give):**
Le doy dinero. - I give him money.
Nos dan consejos. - They give us advice.
- **Decir (to say/tell):**
Te digo la verdad. - I tell you the truth.
Les dice secretos. - He tells them secrets.
- **Preguntar (to ask):**
Me pregunta mi nombre. - He asks me my name.
Os pregunto la hora. - I ask you the time.
- **Escribir (to write):**
Le escribo emails. - I write him emails.
Nos escriben cartas. - They write us letters.
- **Comprar (to buy):**
Te compro un regalo. - I buy you a gift.
Les compra juguetes. - He buys them toys.

4 Reflexive Pronouns

Pronombres Reflexivos - When the action reflects back to the subject

4.1 Reflexive Pronoun Forms

- **Me - Myself** - first person singular
Me lavo las manos. - I wash my hands.
Me visto rápidamente. - I dress myself quickly.
- **Te - Yourself (informal)** - second person singular
Te despiertas temprano. - You wake up early.
Te peinas el cabello. - You comb your hair.
- **Se - Himself/herself/yourself (formal)** - third person singular
Se ducha por la mañana. - He showers in the morning.
Se llama María. - Her name is María.
- **Nos - Ourselves** - first person plural
Nos sentamos aquí. - We sit here.
Nos divertimos mucho. - We have a lot of fun.
- **Os - Yourselves (informal Spain)** - second person plural
Os acostáis tarde. - You all go to bed late.
Os preparáis para el examen. - You all prepare for the exam.
- **Se - Themselves/yourselves (formal)** - third person plural
Se levantan a las siete. - They get up at seven.
Se conocen bien. - They know each other well.

4.2 Common Reflexive Verbs

- **Levantarse (to get up):**
Me levanto a las seis. - I get up at six.
Se levanta temprano. - He gets up early.
- **Llamarse (to be called):**
Me llamo Juan. - My name is Juan.
¿Cómo te llamas? - What's your name?
- **Sentirse (to feel):**
Me siento bien. - I feel good.
Se siente cansada. - She feels tired.
- **Vestirse (to get dressed):**
Me visto de negro. - I dress in black.
Se viste elegante. - He dresses elegantly.
- **Quedarse (to stay):**
Me quedo en casa. - I stay home.
Se quedan en el hotel. - They stay at the hotel.
- **Irse (to leave):**
Me voy ahora. - I'm leaving now.
Se van de vacaciones. - They go on vacation.

5 Possessive Pronouns

Pronombres Posesivos - Showing ownership

5.1 Short Form Possessive Adjectives

- **Mi/Mis** - *My* - first person singular
Mi casa es grande. - My house is big.
Mis libros están aquí. - My books are here.
- **Tu/Tus** - *Your (informal)* - second person singular
Tu perro es bonito. - Your dog is cute.
Tus amigos son simpáticos. - Your friends are nice.
- **Su/Sus** - *His/Her/Your (formal)* - third person singular
Su coche es nuevo. - His car is new.
Sus hijos son inteligentes. - Her children are intelligent.
- **Nuestro/Nuestra/Nuestros/Nuestras** - *Our* - first person plural
Nuestro profesor es bueno. - Our teacher is good.
Nuestra casa es pequeña. - Our house is small.

- **Vuestro/Vuestra/Vuestros/Vuestras** - *Your (informal Spain)* - second person plural
Vuestro país es hermoso. - Your country is beautiful.
Vuestra familia es grande. - Your family is large.

5.2 Long Form Possessive Pronouns

- **Mío/Mía/Míos/Mías** - *Mine* - first person singular
El libro es mío. - The book is mine.
Esta casa es mía. - This house is mine.
- **Tuyo/Tuya/Tuyos/Tuyas** - *Yours (informal)* - second person singular
El problema es tuyo. - The problem is yours.
Estas llaves son tuyas. - These keys are yours.
- **Suyo/Suya/Suyos/Suyas** - *His/Hers/Yours (formal)* - third person singular
La decisión es suya. - The decision is his.
Estos documentos son suyos. - These documents are his.
- **Nuestro/Nuestra/Nuestros/Nuestras** - *Ours* - first person plural
La victoria es nuestra. - The victory is ours.
Estos niños son nuestros. - These children are ours.
- **Suyo/Suya/Suyos/Suyas** - *Theirs/Yours (formal plural)* - third person plural
La responsabilidad es suya. - The responsibility is theirs.
Estas ideas son suyas. - These ideas are theirs.

6 Demonstrative Pronouns

Pronombres Demostrativos - Pointing out specific things

6.1 This/These Pronouns

- **Este/Esta/Estos/Estas** - *This/These (near)* - close to speaker
Este es mi amigo. - This is my friend.
Esta es mi hermana. - This is my sister.
Estos son mis libros. - These are my books.
- **Esto** - *This (neuter)* - undefined or abstract
Esto es importante. - This is important.
¿Qué es esto? - What is this?

6.2 That/Those Pronouns

- **Ese/Esa/Esos/Esas** - *That/Those (medium)* - near listener
Ese es tu coche. - That is your car.
Esa es la respuesta. - That is the answer.
Esos son tus zapatos. - Those are your shoes.

- **Eso** - *That (neuter)* - undefined or abstract
Eso no es cierto. - That is not true.
¿Por qué dices eso? - Why do you say that?
- **Aquel/Aquella/Aquellos/Aquellas** - *That/Those (far)* - far from both
Aquel es el problema. - That is the problem.
Aquella es mi escuela. - That is my school.
Aquellos son mis vecinos. - Those are my neighbors.
- **Aquello** - *That (neuter far)* - undefined or abstract far
Aquello fue increíble. - That was incredible.
¿Recuerdas aquello? - Do you remember that?

7 Pronoun Combinations

Double Object Pronouns:

When using both direct and indirect object pronouns together, the indirect object pronoun always comes first:

- **Me lo da** - He gives it to me
- **Te la compro** - I buy it for you
- **Nos los explica** - He explains them to us

Special Rule: When both pronouns start with "l" (le + lo, le + la, les + los, les + las), the indirect object pronoun changes to "se":

- **Se lo digo** - I tell it to him (not "le lo digo")
- **Se las damos** - We give them to her (not "les las damos")

8 Common Mistakes and Tips

Common Mistakes to Avoid:

1. **Wrong gender agreement:** Remember that pronouns must match the gender of the noun they replace
2. **Incorrect placement:** Object pronouns go before conjugated verbs, not after
3. **Forgetting reflexive pronouns:** Many daily activities require reflexive pronouns
4. **Using "le" instead of "se":** When combining le/les with lo/la/los/las, change to "se"
5. **Overusing subject pronouns:** Spanish often omits subject pronouns when the meaning is clear

Pro Tips for Learning Spanish Pronouns:

1. **Practice with real sentences:** Don't memorize pronouns in isolation
2. **Listen to native speakers:** Pay attention to pronoun usage in context
3. **Start with the most common:** Master me, te, se, nos first
4. **Use visual aids:** Create charts showing pronoun positions
5. **Practice daily routines:** Reflexive pronouns are perfect for describing daily activities

6. **Read Spanish texts:** Notice how pronouns replace nouns in written Spanish

9 Quick Reference Table

Person	Subject	Direct Object	Indirect Object	Reflexive
1st sing.	yo	me	me	me
2nd sing. (informal)	tú	te	te	te
3rd sing. masc.	él	lo	le	se
3rd sing. fem.	ella	la	le	se
2nd sing. (formal)	usted	lo/la	le	se
1st plural	nosotros/as	nos	nos	nos
2nd plural (Spain)	vosotros/as	os	os	os
3rd plural masc.	ellos	los	les	se
3rd plural fem.	ellas	las	les	se
2nd plural (formal)	ustedes	los/las	les	se

10 Practice Exercises

Exercise 1: Replace with object pronouns

Replace the underlined words with the correct pronoun:

1. Veo a María todos los días. → La veo todos los días.
2. Compro el libro mañana. → _____ compro mañana.
3. Doy flores a mi madre. → _____ doy flores.
4. Escribimos cartas a nuestros padres. → _____ escribimos cartas.
5. Explico la lección a los estudiantes. → _____ explico la lección.

Exercise 2: Choose the correct reflexive pronoun

Complete with the correct reflexive pronoun:

1. Yo _____ levanto a las siete. (me/te/se)
2. Tú _____ llamas Pedro. (me/te/se)
3. Ella _____ ducha por la mañana. (me/te/se)

4. Nosotros _____ vamos ahora. (nos/os/se)
5. Ellos _____ sienten bien. (nos/os/se)

Exercise 3: Possessive pronouns

Complete with the correct possessive pronoun:

1. Este libro es _____. (my book)
2. _____ casa es grande. (our house)
3. ¿Es _____ este coche? (your car - informal)
4. _____ hijos son inteligentes. (his children)
5. Esta idea es _____. (theirs)

11 Learning Strategies

To master Spanish pronouns:

1. **Create pronoun charts** organized by type and practice regularly
2. **Use substitution exercises** replacing nouns with appropriate pronouns
3. **Practice with daily routines** using reflexive pronouns naturally
4. **Watch Spanish media** and identify different pronoun types
5. **Keep a pronoun journal** noting new constructions you encounter
6. **Practice conversations** focusing on natural pronoun usage
7. **Use pronoun apps** for additional drilling and practice
8. **Read Spanish dialogues** paying attention to pronoun placement

Remember: Spanish pronouns are systematic once you understand the patterns. Start with the most common ones and gradually build your repertoire. Focus on placement rules and practice with real sentences rather than isolated words. Don't worry about perfection initially – fluency comes with consistent practice!

¡Éxito con tu aprendizaje de los pronombres españoles!
Success with learning Spanish pronouns!