Breakthrough Spanish

Object Pronouns Made Simple

Confidently use Spanish object pronouns with this clear guide packed with examples and practice.

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Breakthrough Spanish Bonus Guide to Object Pronouns

1. Let's Recap What You Learned

You might hear things like:

- "Te lo compré ayer" I bought it for you yesterday
- "¿Me lo prestas?" Will you lend it to me?
- "Se la vendió" She sold it to him/her

At first, these little word combos might feel confusing. But once you get the pattern, you'll start using them automatically — just like native speakers.

This guide will help you:

- Understand what these words mean
- Put them in the right order
- Practice using them in your own sentences

2. The Magic Order: Person → Thing → Verb

Often, we only need one of the pronouns above. As in:

Le comenté que... I mentioned to him/her/usted that.

Or

Lo comenté. I mentioned it

But when we combine those two ideas to say something like *I mentioned it to* him, we need both types of pronouns.

Here's the basic pattern we follow in Spanish when using these short words (pronouns).

Remember that it is alphabetical:

Person → Thing → Verb

Let's build some examples step by step:

Example 1: "I sent it (el mensaje) to you"

- I sent → envié
- it → lo (refers to el mensaje)
- to you → te
- Te lo envié

Example 2: "I gave it (the apple) to him"

- I gave → di
- it → la (la manzana)
- to him \rightarrow le \rightarrow becomes se
- √ Se la di*

Note that I gave it to **her/them** would be the same! Se Ia di. More on se down below.

Example 3: "She lent it (la chaqueta) to us"

- She lent → **prestó**
- it → la (la chaqueta)
- to us → nos
- ✓ Nos la prestó

Example 4: "They bought them (los zapatos) for me"

- They bought → compraron
- them → los (los zapatos)

- for me → me
- Me los compraron

隓 Example 5: "I'll explain it (el tema) to you all (vosotros)"

- I explain → explico (often the present tense is used for this kind of future scenario, so explico acts the way we would use "I'll explain" in English)
- it → lo (el tema)
- to you all (vosotros) → os
- Os lo explico

Tip: If you're not sure which pronoun to use, try asking yourself:

- Who is the action affecting? That's me, te, se (le), nos, os, les (se)
- What is being given/told/shared/etc.? (that's lo, la, los, las)

3. What About "Se"? (The Swap)

Let's say you'd normally be using le or les.

As in *le* digo or *les* envío.

But you want to add in an object — a **thing** you are telling or sending:

For example, un secreto (Io), una chaqueta (Ia), unos secretos (Ios), unas chaquetas (Ias).

We can't say

- X Le lo digo I tell it to you
- 🗶 Les la envío I send it to you

Instead, we have to use se in place of le and les.						
✓ Se lo digo (el secreto)✓ Se la envío (la chaqueta)						
6. Practice Time: You Try!						
Let's test what you've learned with some fresh examples. Try to go with your instincts — don't worry about being perfect!						
A. Fill in the blanks						
1. ¿Quién te explicó la tarea de matemáticas?						
→ El profesor explicó.						
2. ¿Me mandas las fotos del viaje?						
\rightarrow Sí, mando por WhatsApp.						
3. ¿Quién les dio los consejos a tus amigos?						
→ Mi mamá dio.						
4. ¿Nos traes los documentos esta tarde?						
→ Sí, traigo después del almuerzo.						
∠ B. Rewrite the sentence using pronouns						
(Replace the bold parts with short words)						
1. Carla preparó la cena para mí.						
→						
2. Entregamos los informes al jefe.						
→						
3. Estás leyendo el libro a los niños.						

4. Luis regaló una planta a su abuela.

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C. Match the sentence to its meaning

Match the sentence on the left with what it means in English.

Spanish	English
1. Me lo pidieron	A. I brought it to you all (vosotros)
2. Se la envié	B. I sent it (feminine) to her
3. Os lo traje	C. They asked me for it
4. Nos las mostraron	D. They showed them to us (feminine)

D. Translate these mini-dialogues

Try translating the conversation naturally, using the short pronouns.

1. "Who gave you the headphones?" (los audífonos/auriculares)

"My brother gave them to me."

2. "Are you going to read the message to her?" (el mensaje)

"Yes, I'm going to read it to her."

3. "Did they send the invitations to you all?" (las invitaciones)

"Yes, they sent them to us."

7. Answer Key

A. Fill in the blanks

- 1. me la
- 2. te las
- 3. **se los**
- 4. se los / os los (for vosotros)

B. Rewrite with pronouns

1. Carla me la preparó

- 2. Se los entregamos
- 3. Se lo estás leyendo / Estás leyéndoselo
- 4. Se la regaló

C. Match the sentence

- 1 → C
- $2 \rightarrow B$
- $3 \rightarrow A$
- $4 \rightarrow D$

D. Translations

- 1. Mi hermano me los dio
- 2. Sí, voy a leérselo / Sí, se lo voy a leer
- 3. Sí, nos las enviaron

🔑 8. Quick Tips to Remember

- The order for these multiple-pronoun sentences is: Person → Thing → Verb
 - Te lo doy
 - X Lo te doy
- Le/les + Io/la/los/las = se + Io/la/los/las
- With two verbs (like voy a dar), the pronouns can go before or after both are used:
 - Te lo voy a dar
 - Voy a dártelo

😉 9. Keep Practicing!

Try saying out loud:

- "I gave it to her"
- "They sent it to us"
- "Are you going to lend it to me?"
- Listen for these combos in songs, shows, or conversations.
- Practice replacing long phrases with these short words in your own sentences!

If you found this helpful, keep practicing with the video — repeat the examples, pause to try them yourself, and come back to this guide whenever you need a refresher.



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