

Pronouns

Direct Object Pronouns

me, te, lo, la
nos, los, las

Direct Object Pronouns precede the conjugated verb in Spanish, they follow in English..

Where can the children be. I have been looking for them for fifteen minutes, and I can't find them... I saw them in the park...

Donde estaran **los** ninos ? Hace quince minutos que **los** busco y no **los** encuentro. **Los** vi en el parque.

Oh I don't have the book. I left it at school. I have mine here. Do you want it ?
Ay, no tengo el libro. **Lo** deje' en el colegio. Aqui tengo el mio. **Lo** quieres.

Are you going downtown now ? Will you take us ? Gladly, I will leave you in front of the post office.
Vas a centro ahora. **Nos** llevas. Con mucho gusto. **Los** dejo delante del correo. Esta bien.

Carlos, what a surprise ! We haven't seen you for such a long time.
Carlos, que milagro. No **te** hemos visto por tanto tiempo.

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Direct Object Pronouns: Part I

When the pronoun replaces the name of the direct object, use the following pronouns:

me (me)
te (you-familiar)
lo, la (him, her, it, you-formal)

nos (us)
os (you-all-familiar)
los, las (them, you-all-formal)

In an affirmative statement with one verb, the direct object pronoun comes immediately before the conjugated verb.

Tengo = I have

Tengo la pluma. = I have the pen.

La tengo. = I have it.

The pronoun (la) comes immediately before the verb (tengo).

Juan la tiene.

Juan tiene = John has

Juan tiene la pluma. = John has the pen.

Juan la tiene. = John has it.

María la tiene.

María tiene = Mary has

María tiene la pluma. = Mary has the pen.

María la tiene. = Mary has it.

However, if the direct object of the sentence changes to a masculine noun, the masculine pronoun must be used.

Juan lo tiene.

Juan tiene = John has

Juan tiene el libro. = John has the book.

Juan lo tiene. = John has it.

but

Juan la tiene.

Juan tiene = John has

Juan tiene la pluma. = John has the pen.

Juan la tiene. = John has it.

Likewise, if the direct object of the sentence changes from singular to plural, the plural pronoun must be used.

Juan lo tiene.

Juan tiene = John has

Juan tiene el libro. = John has the book.

Juan lo tiene. = John has it.

but

María los tiene.

María tiene = Mary has

María tiene los libros. = Mary has the books.

María los tiene. = Mary has them.

"Lo tengo" and "La tengo" BOTH mean "I have it."

John = Juan

John eats = Juan come

John eats the = Juan come la

John eats the soup = Juan come la sopa.

Learn to translate groups of words, rather than individual words. The first step is to learn to view two Spanish words as a single phrase.

Try to think of each line as a single phrase, not two separate words:

la como

lo como

la leo

lo leo

la veo

lo veo

la tengo

lo tengo

la compro

lo compro

la como

I eat it (feminine DO - la sopa, la comida, etc.)

lo como

I eat it (masculine DO - el pollo, el arroz, etc.)

la leo

I read it

lo leo

I read it

la veo
I see it
lo veo
I see it

la tengo
I have it
lo tengo
I have it

la compro
I buy it
lo compro
I buy it

In the previous examples, it is clear that the subject of the sentence is "I" because the verbs are all conjugated in the "yo" form. With other verb forms, it is often desirable to add a word to clarify the subject.

Juan la come. (la comida) Juan eats it.
María lo tiene. (el libro) María has it.
El chico la compra. (la pluma) The boy buys it.
La chica lo ve. (el edificio) The girl sees it.
Ustedes lo leen. (el periódico) You-all read it.

Now, some examples of plural direct objects.

Juan come dos sándwiches Los come. or Juan los come.
María tiene tres libros Los tiene. or María los tiene.
El chico compra dos revistas Las compra. or El chico las compra.
La chica ve dos coches Los ve. or La chica los ve.
Ella compra dos televisiones Las compra. or Ella las compra.
Tenemos dos mesas Las tenemos. or Nosotros las tenemos.

Now, some examples where the direct object is a person.

I know you Te conozco.
She loves him Ella lo ama.
She loves me Ella me ama.
Juan sees her Juan la ve.
They call us Ellos nos llaman.
We call them Los llamamos.

Indirect Object Pronouns

me, te, le
nos, les