DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

This lesson will focus on the use of di***rect object pronouns*** to replace object pronouns. We do this when the person or thing we are talking about is already known or when we want to give a short answer without mentioning the direct object again. ***Direct object pronouns*** are very important in Spanish grammar as they are used all the time in order to express oneself more naturally, avoiding repetition of nouns unnecessarily.

In general you will find them in the answers to questions **'what'** or **'who'.** After carefully reading this explanation on both direct objects and direct object pronouns, complete the exercise and practice replacing direct objects with their pronouns.

What does it mean? Some reminders:

A noun is a naming word like house, dog, John.

A pronoun stands in place of a noun, e.g. it, him, her, them.

A subject pronoun replaces the noun that performs the action, e.g. John kicked the ball. **He** kicked the ball.

An object pronoun replaces the noun that the verb acts on, e.g. John kicked the ball. John kicked **it**.

In English, object pronouns come after the verb, but in Spanish they often come before the verb.

Note that some Spanish pronouns have the same spelling as different words, e.g. el, la, las, los (the).

Spanish

*OBJETO DIRECTO*

The *direct object* is the person, animal or thing that receives the action.

We can find them in the answers to these questions:

**¿Qué + verb? or ¿A quién + verb?**

* Elena ordena *los libros* de su oficina. Elena organizes the books in her office.
* Juan y José limpian su *habitación*. Juan and José clean their room.
* Nosotras vamos a visitar a *nuestra tía* mañana. We are going to visit our aunt tomorrow.
* Tú ayudarás a *tu mamá* durante este tiempo. You will help your mom during this time.

DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS in Spanish

*PRONOMBRES DE OBJETO DIRECTO*

Direct object pronouns are used to replace the noun mentioned previously and that we already know, or to give a short answer.

In general, we write these pronouns before the verb.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A mí --> Me | A nosotros --> Nos |
| A tí --> Te | ***A vosotros --> Os*** |
| A él --> Lo | A ella --> La |
| A usted --> Lo/ La | A ellos --> Los |
| A ellas --> Las | A ustedes --> Los / Las |

Examples

* Elizabeth compró **el pan** en el supermercado --> Elizabeth **lo** compró en el supermercado.  
  *Elizabeth bought the bread in the supermarket = Elizabeth bought* ***it*** *in the supermarket.*
* Nosotros preparamos **la cena** --> Nosotros **la** preparamos.   
  *We prepare* ***dinner*** *= We prepare* ***it****.*
* Tú vendiste **tus libros** de historia --> Tú **los** vendiste.   
  *You sold your history books. = You sold them.*
* Usted pintó todas **las paredes** de verde --> Usted **las** pintó todas de verde.   
  *You will paint all the walls green = You will paint them all green.*

Instructions: Replace the direct object with the correct pronoun.

1. Yo no respondo los correos electrónicos hasta el fin del día.  
Yo no   respondo hasta el fin del día. (los, las)

2. Ella siempre deja las llaves sobre la mesa.  
Ella siempre   deja sobre la mesa. (los, las)

3. Ella nunca tomaba la medicina a tiempo.  
Ella nunca   tomaba a tiempo. (lo, la)

4. Ud. saludaba amablemente a todos.  
Ud.   saludaba amablemente a todos. (nos, los)

5. Sofía ayuda a la abuela a cocinar.  
Sofía   ayuda a cocinar. (la, lo)

6. Ustedes hacen los pasteles para fiestas.  
Ustedes   hacen para fiestas. (los, las)

7. El papá ayuda a sus hijos con los verbos.  
El papá   ayuda con los verbos. (los, nos)

8. Yo leí tres (3) libros en un mes.  
Yo   leí en un mes. (los, las)

9. Los niños quebraron la ventana.  
Los niños   quebraron. (la, lo)

10. Mi familia envío las tarjetas por correo.  
Mi familia   envió por correo. (los, las)

11. Rubén visita a su hermana cada fin de semana.  
Rubén   visita cada fin de semana. (la, lo)