

Unit 9

Direct Object Pronouns

FUNCTION: Replace the name(s) of the direct object(s) of the verb in a sentence or clause

SPANISH PLACEMENT: Immediately before the conjugated verb or attached directly to the infinitive

ENGLISH EQUIVALENTS: me, you, him, her, it, us, them

The direct object answers the question *What?* or *Whom?* with regard to the verb in a sentence or clause. Consider the sentence, "John has the book." *What* does John have? He has the book; thus, the book is the direct object. The direct object pronoun *it* can therefore replace the direct object noun in the sentence, "John has it."

In the sentence, "John sees Mary," one can ask, "*Whom* does John see?" John sees Mary; thus, Mary is the direct object. The direct object pronoun *her* can replace Mary in the sentence, "John sees her."

Singular	Plural
me (me) te (you) lo/la (him/her; you; it)	nos (us) os (you) los/las (them; you)

Placement in Affirmative Sentences

In an affirmative statement (or clause) with one verb, the direct object pronoun will immediately precede the conjugated verb.

examples:

Yo **te** conozco.
I know *you*.

Lo vemos.
We see *him*.

Tú **me** amas.
You love *me*.

La tenéis.
You have *it*.

Ella **los** compra.
She buys *them*.

Ustedes **lo** quieren.
You want *it*.

ejercicio

I-9-1

Fill in each blank with the appropriate direct object pronoun.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Juan tiene el libro. | Juan _____ tiene. |
| 2. Ellos ven a María. | Ellos _____ ven. |
| 3. Yo conozco a Jorge y a Felipe. | Yo _____ conozco. |
| 4. Juanita conoce España. | Juanita _____ conoce. |
| 5. Tú lavas la ropa. | Tú _____ lavas. |
| 6. Tú compras los huevos. | Tú _____ compras. |
| 7. Ustedes beben la leche. | Ustedes _____ beben. |
| 8. Yo no veo los libros. | Yo no _____ veo. |
| 9. Ellas tienen el dinero. | Ellas _____ tienen. |
| 10. Vosotros comprendéis el ejercicio. | Vosotros _____ comprendéis. |
| 11. Marta lleva el vestido a la fiesta. | Marta _____ lleva a la fiesta. |
| 12. Yo uso la computadora cada día. | Yo _____ uso cada día. |
| 13. Alejandro vende los zapatos. | Alejandro _____ vende. |
| 14. Ella toma las vitaminas. | Ella _____ toma. |
| 15. Nosotros miramos la televisión. | Nosotros _____ miramos. |

ejercicio

I-9-2

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. I love you. _____ | 7. I drink it (<i>m.</i>). _____ |
| 2. I love him. _____ | 8. I have it (<i>f.</i>). _____ |
| 3. He loves me. _____ | 9. You (<i>s., fam.</i>) have it (<i>m.</i>). _____ |
| 4. I see you (<i>s., fam.</i>). _____ | 10. She has them (<i>m.</i>). _____ |
| 5. I know you (<i>s., formal</i>). _____ | 11. You love me. _____ |
| 6. She sees him. _____ | 12. I love her. _____ |

13. They love us. _____ 17. They eat it (*f.*). _____
14. You (*s., fam.*) see me. _____ 18. I want it (*m.*). _____
15. You (*pl., fam.*) know me. _____ 19. We want it (*f.*). _____
16. We see her. _____ 20. We have them (*f.*). _____

ejercicio

I-9-3

Answer the following questions using a direct object pronoun. Answer questions 4–15 in the affirmative.

1. ¿Dónde compras la ropa? _____
2. ¿Dónde compras los libros? _____
3. ¿Dónde estudias español? _____
4. ¿Conoces al Presidente de los Estados Unidos? _____
5. ¿Tomas un café cada día? _____
6. ¿Comprendes esta lección? _____
7. ¿Lees la revista *Teenbeat*? _____
8. ¿Lees el periódico cada día? _____
9. ¿Haces la cama cada día? _____
10. ¿Conoces la capital de España? _____
11. ¿Ves las estrellas ahora? _____
12. ¿Comes mucho pan? _____
13. ¿Miras las telenovelas (*soap operas*)? _____
14. ¿Lees poemas románticos a menudo? _____

Placement in Negative Sentences

In a negative sentence (or clause) with one verb, the direct object pronoun is placed between the word *no* (or other term of negation) and the conjugated verb.

examples:

Yo **no lo** sé. **No lo** conocemos.
I don't know *it*. We don't know *him*.

No los compras.
You don't buy *them*.

Él no nos ve jamás.
He *never* sees *us*.

Nunca lo estudiáis.
You *never* study *it*.

Ellos no me odian.
They don't hate *me*.

ejercicio

I-9-4

Unless otherwise indicated, you = second-person singular.

1. I don't have it (*m.*). _____
2. She doesn't see it (*f.*). _____
3. I don't know him. _____
4. You don't know me. _____
5. They don't buy it (*f.*). _____
6. He doesn't write it (*m.*). _____
7. They don't read them (*m.*). _____
8. She doesn't earn it (*m.*). _____
9. I don't wear it (*m.*). _____
10. We don't see you. _____
11. You don't have it (*f.*). _____
12. They don't see it (*m.*). _____
13. He doesn't know me. _____
14. They don't know us. _____
15. We don't use it (*m.*). _____
16. She doesn't read it (*m.*). _____
17. We don't sing them (*f.*). _____
18. You (*pl., formal*) don't have it (*m.*). _____
19. You never wear them (*m.*). _____
20. You never see us. _____

Placement in Affirmative Sentences with Two Verbs

In a statement (or clause) that contains two verbs—the first verb is conjugated and the second one remains in the infinitive form—you have two options:

1. Place the direct object pronoun immediately before the first verb (conjugated).
2. Attach the direct object pronoun directly to the second verb (infinitive).

Note: Both options are used in writing and in conversation; however, the second option is used more frequently.

examples:

Te quiero **ver**. / Quiero **verte**.
I want *to see you*.

Lo queremos **comprar**. / Queremos **comprarlo**.
We want *to buy it*.

Lo puedes **beber**. / Puedes **beberlo**.
You can *drink it*.

La podéis **comer**. / Podéis **comerla**.
You can *eat it*.

Él **nos** debe **visitar**. / Él debe **visitarnos**.
He should *visit us*.

Ellos **lo** deben **ver**. / Ellos deben **verlo**.
They should *see it*.

ejercicio

I-9-5

Fill in the blank with the direct object pronoun attached to the infinitive.

1. Yo necesito lavar la ropa. Yo necesito _____.
2. Tú quieres comer la pizza. Tú quieres _____.
3. Ella tiene que escribir el informe. Ella tiene que _____.
4. Debemos limpiar la casa. Debemos _____.
5. El pianista puede tocar las canciones. El pianista puede _____.
6. Ellos pueden bailar el tango. Ellos pueden _____.
7. Quiero construir los edificios aquí. Quiero _____ aquí.
8. El gato puede ver el ratón (*mouse*). El gato puede _____.
9. Ella quiere conocer a tu madre. Ella quiere _____.
10. Prefiero oír la verdad. Prefiero _____.
11. El profesor quiere ver a tu padre ahora. El profesor quiere _____ ahora.
12. La cocinera va a preparar las tortillas. La cocinera va a _____.
13. Nadie puede oír la música ahora. Nadie puede _____ ahora.

14. Ellos quieren conocer a mis hermanos. Ellos quieren _____.

15. Queremos visitar el museo. Queremos _____.

ejercicio

I-9-6

For items 1–5, place the direct object pronoun before the conjugated verb. For items 6–10, attach the direct object pronoun to the infinitive.

1. He wants to see me. _____
2. She wants to kiss him. _____
3. You (*s., fam.*) should eat them (*m.*). _____
4. They have to do it (*f.*). _____
5. We want to meet them (*f.*). _____
6. She has to sing it (*f.*). _____
7. I should read it (*m.*). _____
8. I want to see you (*s., fam.*) tomorrow. _____
9. They need to have it (*m.*) by (*para*) tomorrow. _____
10. Juan can see us. _____

Placement in Questions and Negative Sentences with Two Verbs

For questions and/or negative statements with two verbs, the direct object pronoun can be placed before the conjugated verb or attached directly to the infinitive.

examples:

No tengo que **leerlo**. / **No lo** tengo que leer.
I don't have to read it.

No queremos **hacerlo**. / **No lo** queremos hacer.
We don't want to do it.

¿Tienes que **estudiarlo** conmigo? / ¿**Lo** tienes que **estudiar** conmigo?
Do you have to study it with me?

¿Podéis **soportarlo**? / ¿**Lo** podéis **soportar**?
Can you stand it?

Usted **no** debe **ponerlo** aquí.
You shouldn't put it here.

¿Piensan en **venderlo**?
Are you thinking of selling it?

ejercicio

I-9-7

For this exercise, attach the direct object pronoun to the infinitive form. Unless otherwise indicated, you = second-person singular.

1. Do you want to see it (*f.*) with me? _____
2. Are you going to eat it (*m.*)? _____
3. Should we drink it (*f.*) now, or should we put it in the refrigerator? _____

4. Can we eat it (*m.*), or should we throw it into (*a*) the garbage? _____

5. You shouldn't put them (*m.*) in the living room. _____
6. If you don't want to have it (*f.*), you should put it in the box and return (*devolver*) it. _____

7. I can't wear them (*m.*) to a formal party. _____
8. Why can't you see me? _____
9. You don't have to do it (*m.*) today. _____
10. Do you want to open them (*f.*) in the morning and close them in the evening? _____

ejercicio

I-9-8

For this exercise, place the direct object pronoun before the conjugated verb. Unless otherwise indicated, you = second-person singular.

1. I don't want to see you (*m., pl., formal*) tonight. _____
2. You shouldn't return (*devolver*) it (*f.*). _____
3. Why can't you say it (*m.*)? _____
4. We are not going to see her at (*en*) the library. _____
5. She can't throw them (*f.*) in (*a*) the garbage. _____
6. When can I see them (*f.*)? _____

7. If you don't want to hear it (*m.*), you can turn off (*apagar*) the radio. _____

8. Where do you want to store (*guardar*) them (*m.*)? Can we put them here? _____

9. Are you (*pl., formal*) going to sell it (*f.*)? _____
10. No, you cannot hit (*golpear*) him! _____

ejercicio

I-9-9

I know that Marcos has my money, my shoes, and the table and chairs for my dining room. He thinks (*believes*) that I don't know this, but, yes, I know it. First, the money. I know that he has it because I can see it in that drawer (*over there*). Second, the shoes. I need them because if I don't wear them, I can't run fast or (*ni*) jump well. Third, the table. I don't know why (*por qué*) he has it or (*ni*) why he wants it. I want to put it in my new house. He believes that the chairs are his, but it's not true. They are mine. And I want them now.

vocabulario

dining room	el comedor	now	ahora
drawer	la gaveta	second	segundo
first	primero	third	tercero
(to) jump	saltar	true	verdad
