

The Direct Object (D.O.) & Direct Object Pronoun (D.O.P)

First of all you must remember that a direct object in a sentence is the person, event or thing affected by the verb. The direct object answers the question "**what?**" or "**whom?**" with regard to what the subject of the sentence is doing.

Examples of Direct Objects in English:

1) Bill hits the ball.

Q: What did Bill hit? A: The ball.

2) Sherry reads the book.

Q: What did Sherry read? A: The book

The direct object can also be a person.

3) Sherry hits Bill.

Q: Whom did Sherry hit? A: Bill

Direct Object Pronouns: Pronouns that replace the direct object nouns in a sentence.

Examples of Direct Object Pronouns in English:

1) Bill hits **the ball**. Bill hits **it**.

2) Sherry reads **the book**. Sherry reads **it**.

3) Sherry hits **Bill**. She hits **him**.

Direct Object Pronouns in English and Spanish:

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
me (me)	nos (us)
te (you – familiar)	
lo (him, it, you – formal)	los (them, you all)
la (her, it, you – formal)	las (them, you all – female)

The main difference between the use of the direct object pronouns in Spanish and English is their placement. While in English they substitute the direct object (and its article) (*see above examples again*) and are placed where the original object was, in Spanish this pronoun is placed in front of the verb, replacing also any article used with the object previously.

Some examples:

I know <u>you</u> .	She loves <u>him</u> .	She loves <u>me</u> .
Yo te conozco.	Ella lo ama.	Ella me ama.
Juan sees <u>her</u> .	They call <u>us</u> .	We call <u>them</u> .
Juan la ve.	Ellos nos llaman.	Los llamamos.

Even more examples:

	Spanish	English
<i>Direct object expressed</i>	(Tú) llevas el libro	You take/carry the book
<i>Direct object pronoun</i>	(Tú) lo llevas	You take/carry it
<i>Direct object expressed</i>	Ella rompe la silla	She breaks the chair
<i>Direct object pronoun</i>	Ella la rompe	She breaks it
<i>Direct object expressed</i>	Ustedes secuestran los perros	You [all] kidnap the dogs
<i>Direct object pronoun</i>	Ustedes los secuestran	You [all] kidnap them
<i>Direct object expressed</i>	El interrumpe la fiesta	He interrupts the party
<i>Direct object pronoun</i>	El la interrumpe	He interrupts it

Adapted from studyspanish.com

Direct Object pronouns:

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How to find the Direct Object:

1. Look for the **verb** and underline it.
2. Ask yourself what or whom is the verb affecting.
3. The answer to step 2 above is the **direct object**. Circle it.
4. Within the direct object, look at the article and determine the gender and number and replace it with a **D.O. pronoun**.
5. The D.O.P always goes before the first **verb**

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Tú llevas el libro.

Rosa compra una falda.

Juan y yo esperamos a los amigos.

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Nosotros vamos a estudiar las lecciones.

Lupe come la manzana

Carlos invita a Pablo a la fiesta.

Jorge no estudia sus lecciones

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Yo quiero la chaqueta.

Ellos prefieren los pantalones.

Ella necesita esa mochila.

¿Esperas a Juan?

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