

PRONOUNS IN SPANISH

The following chart summarises all pronouns.

SUBJECT PRONOUNS		DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS		INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS	
yo		me	me	me	(to or for) me
tú		te	you	te	(to or for) you
él, usted		lo	him, it, you	le	(to or for) him, her, it, you
ella, usted		la	her, it, you		
nosotros(as)		nos	us	nos	(to or for) us
vosotros(as)		os	you	os	(to or for) you
ellos, ustedes		los	them, you	les	(to or for) them, you
ellas, ustedes		las	them, you		

REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS		PREPOSITIONAL PRONOUNS	
me	myself	mí	me
te	yourself	ti	you
se	himself, itself, yourself herself, itself, yourself	él, usted ella, usted	him, it, you her, it, you
nos	ourselves	nosotros(as)	us
os	yourselves	vosotros(as)	you
se	themselves, yourselves themselves, yourselves	ellos, ustedes ellas, ustedes	them, you



Usage

Subject pronouns

Subject pronouns function as the subject of a verb i.e., it tells you who is doing the action. Unlike English, the use of subject pronouns is optional in Spanish. Subject pronouns are used for emphasis or in cases where it is not clear who the subject is.

Direct object pronouns

A direct object pronoun replaces a noun that is the object in a sentence, for example:

I throw the ball → I throw it.

In this case "it" is the direct object pronoun.

Indirect object pronouns

An indirect object pronoun tells you **to whom** or **for whom** (also **from whom** or **what**) something is done.

Le escribí todos los días. = I wrote to her every day.

Examples of verbs which will use indirect object pronouns:

preguntar a alguien	to ask someone
recordar algo a alguien	to remind someone of something
enseñar algo a alguien	to teach someone something
escribir algo a alguien	to write to someone
regalar algo a alguien	to give someone something as a gift
ofrecer algo a alguien	to offer something to someone
pedir algo a alguien	to ask someone for something

The indirect object is the equivalent of English “*from*” with verbs meaning; take away, steal, remove etc.

comprarle algo (a alguien)	to buy something from someone
esconderle algo (a alguien)	to hide something from someone
pedirle prestado algo (a alguien)	to borrow something from someone
quitarle algo (a alguien)	to take something away from someone
robarle algo (a alguien)	to steal something from someone
sacarle algo (a alguien)	to get something out of someone / from someone

Reflexive pronouns

These are used with reflexive verbs and have the general meaning of myself, yourself etc.

Prepositional pronouns

These pronouns follow prepositions. In simple terms a preposition is a word that tells you where or when something is in relation to something else. Examples of prepositions include words like after, before, on, under, inside and outside. Prepositions are used to indicate a relationship between two words or phrases, linking them together.

Examples include: *para, por, a, en, hacia, sin, con, según* etc.

Position of pronouns

In Spanish you must place the direct, indirect, or reflexive object pronoun directly **in front of** the conjugated verb:

Yo **lo** robo.

However, we attach it to the end of:

- a gerund/present participle
- infinitive
- an affirmative (positive) command

Examples:

- *Yo estoy robándolo.* (present participle)
- *Yo voy a robarlo.* (infinitive)
- *Róballo* (affirmative command)

We put an accent on *robando* and *róballo* to preserve the pronunciation. If you are not sure where to put the accent, cover up the direct object pronoun and say the gerund naturally. The stressed syllable is where you put the accent.

How can I tell the difference between a direct and an indirect object pronoun?

You can test whether an object is a direct object or an indirect one by asking questions about the action using *what* and *who*:

- an indirect object answers the question **who ... to?** or **who ... for?** Equally **what ... to?** or **what ... for?**

She gave me a book.	→ Who did he give the book to ? →	me (=indirect object pronoun)
Can you get me a spoon?	→ Who can you get a spoon for ? →	me (=indirect object pronoun)
We got some paint for it.	→ What did you get the varnish for ? →	it (=indirect object pronoun)

If something answers the question *what* or *who*, then it is the direct object and NOT the indirect object.

She gave me a book.	→ <i>What did he give me?</i>	→ a book (=direct object)
I saw Ahmed.	→ <i>Who did you see?</i>	→ Ahmed (=direct object)
We got some paint for it.	→ <i>What did you get?</i>	→ some paint (=direct object)

Two object pronouns together

Sometimes two object pronouns can be used together; when this happens the INDIRECT object pronoun always comes first (the opposite to English).

e.g.

They give them to me

In Spanish, the word order will be:

To me them they give (Me los dan).

Example:

If both are third person (i.e.. to him/her/it/them/you (polite)) the indirect object pronoun changes to **SE** to avoid having two words beginning with L-.

Se las robaron ayer. They stole them from him yesterday.
(This is instead of "Le las robaron ayer")

No se lo mandan. They are not sending it to them.
(This is instead of "No les lo mandan")

Read through the following. Identify the type of pronouns used and explain their use.



PRONOUN PRACTICE

In the following we will practice direct, indirect, and reflexive pronouns.

- a) They love me.
- b) We bought them (*the houses*).
- c) The kitchen? They painted it yesterday.
- d) The bathroom? They are going to paint it tomorrow.
- e) The living room? Paint it now!
- f) (*The house*) – Buy it!
- g) (*The houses*) – Do not buy them!
- h) I bought it (*the book*) for her.
- i) I gave it (*the bike*) to you.
- j) We gave it (a house) to him
- k) Did you steal the book from him?
- l) Did you give her the message?
- m) She borrowed the dress from her.
- n) I showed them the picture
- o) The clowns put on makeup. (*maquillarse*)
- p) She wanted to become a nun. (*convertirse en*)
- q) He is cutting his nails right now. (*cortarse las uñas*)
- r) Put on the gloves! (*tú*) (*ponerse*)
- s) Stand up! (*vosotros/as*) (*levantarse*)

THE SPEAKING EXAMINATION

Information

The speaking test will last approximately 16–18 minutes and will consist of:

- a stimulus card (5–6 minutes)
- a presentation on your research project (2 minutes)
- a discussion of your research project (9–10 minutes)

The stimulus card

The teacher/examiner will ask the questions exactly as they are printed on the card and may ask follow-up questions to develop the discussion of the sub-theme.

You **must** ask the teacher/examiner two questions arising from the material on the card. You can ask these questions at any time during the discussion.

To develop the discussion of the sub-theme, you will be expected to respond to questions and discuss in Spanish broader issues within the sub-theme on the card.

LOS PRONOMBRES PERSONALES Y LA COMUNIDAD LGBT



El actor que participó en The Umbrella Academy (la serie de Netflix), ha utilizado sus redes sociales para anunciar que es trans y se llama Elliot Page. "Hola, amigos. Quiero compartir con vosotros que soy trans, mis pronombres son él/elle* y mi nombre es Elliot. Siento que tengo suerte de estar escribiendo esto. De estar aquí. De haber llegado a este lugar en mi vida", escribe.

**Según lo define la RAE, "elle" es un "pronombre de uso no generalizado creado para aludir a quienes puedan no sentirse identificados con ninguno de los dos géneros tradicionalmente existentes"*

El fundador de Tesla y SpaceX, Elon Musk, sin embargo, ha provocado una ola de críticas al compartir en su cuenta de Twitter un meme que hace burla de aquellos usuarios que se identifican mediante pronombres personales en sus perfiles o biografías en las redes sociales.



Preguntas

1. ¿Te sorprende la actitud de alguna gente hacia las personas transgénero?
2. ¿Hasta qué punto crees que la gente basa sus ideas sobre las personas transgénero en estereotipos?
3. ¿En qué otros aspectos de la vida en el mundo hispánico existe el miedo al otro?

PREPOSITIONAL PRONOUNS

What is a pronoun?

e.g., me / you / him / her / it / us / you / them

What is a preposition?

e.g., about, on, for, with, without, for, in front of, according to, next to, behind, below, above, etc.

In Spanish prepositional pronouns are:

me	mí
you (singular + familiar)	ti usted
him / her (it) you (singular + polite)	él / ella (ello – if you are referring to a general idea) usted
us	nosotros / nosotras
you (plural + familiar)	vosotros / vosotras
them you (plural + polite)	ellos / ellas ustedes

A prepositional pronoun will be used after a preposition.

Examples:

- a) I am going **without** you.
- b) **According to** him
- c) **In front of** us
- d) He lives **near** you.

Examples of prepositional pronouns in sentences:

¿Por qué no vas al cine **con ellos**?

Sin él vamos a perder el partido.

Para mí no hay otra posibilidad.

HOWEVER

When it comes to the preposition CON (*with*) when used with “*mí*” and “*ti*” they combine to form “*conmigo*” (with me) and “*contigo*” (with you).

Prepositional Pronouns

Here are the pronouns used following prepositions in Spanish. Examples of prepositions are:

a	to, at, by means of
antes de	before
bajo	under
cerca de	near
con	with
contra	against
de	of, from, indicating possession
delante de	in front of
dentro de	inside
desde	since, from
después de	after
detrás de	behind
en	in, on
encima de	on top of

enfrente de	in front of
entre	between
hacia	toward
hasta	until
para	for, in order to
por	for, by
según	according to
sin	without
sobre	over, about
tras	after, behind

The exceptions: Finally, note that *yo* and *tú* are used with the following six prepositions instead of with *mí* and *ti*, respectively:

excepto (except)	incluso (including/even)
menos (except)	según (according to)
salvo (except)	

The final exceptions: Entre Tú y Yo (between you and me)

Some combinations can sound a bit strange, though. Try saying, “entre ti y mí” (between you and me). The sequence of “ee” sounds can be hard to say!

For that reason, if you need to combine “you and me” in a phrase, use the subject pronouns instead: “entre tú y yo”

PRONOUN PRACTICE

Translate the following into Spanish:

- a) She lives near me.
- b) It is behind you.
- c) We are going after them.
- d) The present is for us.
- e) According to her,
- f) It is a programme about him.
- g) Without you we will lose the match.
- h) I want to be with you.*
- i) He is talking to me.*
- j) Except me.*
- k) According to me.*
- l) Between you and me.*

*= exceptions to the normal rule