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# Unit 10

**FUNCTION:** Replace the name(s) of the indirect 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

# Indirect Object Pronouns

The indirect object answers the question *To or for whom?* or *To or for what?* with regard to the verb in a sentence or clause. Another way of looking at it is to say that the indirect object tells us where the direct object is going.

Consider the sentence, "I give you the gift (I give the gift to you)." The direct object is the gift, because this answers the question *What (do I give)?* The indirect object, then, is *you* because I am giving it (the gift) to you. *You* is where the gift is going.

In the sentence "He buys me flowers (He buys flowers for me)," the direct object is flowers (because that is what he buys), and the indirect object is me because I am the one *for whom* he buys the flowers.

The indirect object pronouns in Spanish are as follows:

Singular	Plural
me (me) te (you) le (him; her; you; it)	nos (us) os (you) les (them; you)

In a sentence with an indirect object, there is always a direct object, either stated or implied. In the sentence "My grandmother writes me every week," *me* is the indirect object because my grandmother is writing *something* (a note, a letter, a postcard, an e-mail message) to me. The direct object is understood.

## ejercicio I-10-1

In the following sentences, identify the direct object and the indirect object. Note that some direct objects are understood; please identify them.

- |   |                     |                       |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. John tells me a story.                 | Direct Object _____ | Indirect Object _____ |
| 2. She buys him nothing.                  | _____               | _____                 |
| 3. They send us food.                     | _____               | _____                 |
| 4. The chef cooks us a meal.              | _____               | _____                 |
| 5. The cannibal cooks us for his friends. | _____               | _____                 |
| 6. He tells you.                          | _____               | _____                 |
| 7. I bought you a ring.                   | _____               | _____                 |
| 8. He buys drinks for everyone.           | _____               | _____                 |
| 9. You write me every week.               | _____               | _____                 |
| 10. They sold the diamonds to her.        | _____               | _____                 |

### Placement in Affirmative Sentences

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

Note that each of the following examples has two possible English translations. English allows for two ways to express the indirect object: (a) between the verb and the direct object and (b) in a prepositional phrase following the direct object.

examples:

- |                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Juan me compra un libro.        | Ella nos dijo una mentira. |
| John buys me a book.            | She told us a lie.         |
| John buys a book for me.        | She told a lie to us.      |
| Yo te digo la verdad siempre.   | Os damos el dinero.        |
| I always tell you the truth.    | We give you the money.     |
| I always tell the truth to you. | We give the money to you.  |
| Ella le escribe una carta.      | Él les canta una canción.  |
| She writes him a letter.        | He sings them a song.      |
| She writes a letter to him.     | He sings a song to them.   |