

Spanish Pronouns and Prepositions

(46)

9. I can send you (*s., fam.*) these vases (*el florero*) through the mail (*por correo*). _____

10. You (*pl., fam.*) need to tell him something. _____

Placement in Questions and Negative Sentences with Two Verbs

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

examples:

¿Quién va a enviarme una cuenta? / ¿Quién me va a enviar una cuenta?
Who is going to send me a bill?

Él no necesita darnos la información. / Él no nos necesita dar la información.
He doesn't need to give us the information.

¿Debemos decirte la verdad? / ¿Te debemos decir la verdad?
Should we tell you the truth?

No quiero venderos estos collares. / No os quiero vender estos collares.
I don't want to sell you these necklaces.

Nunca podéis comprarle la felicidad. / Nunca le podéis comprar la felicidad.
You can never buy happiness for her.

No tengo que decirles nada. / No les tengo que decir nada.
I don't have to tell them anything.

ejercicio 1-10-7

Use both options to express each statement or question. Unless otherwise indicated, you = second-person singular

1. Do you want to bring me a kitten? _____
2. We're not going to show them our new house. _____
3. Do you want to sell them these paintings? _____
4. Who is going to pay me the money? _____

Indirect Object Pronouns

(47)

5. Can you send the furniture (*los muebles*) to us by (*para*) Tuesday? _____

6. The artist can't paint her a picture (*el cuadro*) by June. _____

7. I'm not going to wash your clothing for you. _____

8. We don't want to tell you (*pl., formal*) the bad news (*las malas noticias*). _____

9. When can you (*pl., fam.*) build (*construir*) the building (*el edificio*) for us? _____

10. Should you read her such a letter (*tal carta*)? _____

The Redundant Use of the Indirect Object Pronoun

Even though the principal purpose of any pronoun is to replace a noun, there are times when it is clearer or more emphatic to use both the noun or pronoun and **a** + the pronoun or noun. This is done primarily with the indirect object pronoun and more frequently with some verbs (see the following list). At such times, the indirect object is usually in the third person.

The following verbs frequently take both a noun or pronoun and **a** + the appropriate pronoun:

comprar	to buy	mandar	to send
dar	to give	pedir	to ask (a favor); to request (from)
decir	to say; to tell	preguntar	to ask (a question)
escribir	to write	preparar	to prepare
enviar	to send	regalar	to give (a gift)
hacer	to make or do	traer	to bring

examples:

Yo le doy a Juan cinco dólares.
I give him (John) five dollars.

Manuel les escribe a sus padres cada semana.
Manuel writes to them (his parents) every week.

Les pregunto a ellos si quieren ir.
I ask them if they want to go.

Le pido a mi jefe un aumento.
I ask my boss for a raise.

As you can see in the preceding examples, the addition of **a** + a noun or pronoun neither replaces nor adds necessary information. Thus, technically, it is redundant.

Since the redundant prepositional phrase is not necessary, why do we add it? One reason is that the third-person noun or pronoun helps us clarify the ambiguous, pronoun **le**. Another reason is that the prepositional phrase adds emphasis to the noun or pronoun. In other words, they help each other.