

Spanish Pronouns and Prepositions

For clarity:

- Le conté el chiste. I told (him? her? you?) the joke.
- Le conté a Juan el chiste. I told Juan the joke.
- Le conté el chiste a él. I told him the joke.
- Le conté el chiste a usted. I told you the joke.
- Le conté el chiste a ella. I told her the joke.

For emphasis:

- Juan me contó a mí ese chiste. Juan told me that joke.
- Juan te contó ese chiste a tí. Juan told you that joke?
- Juan nos contó ese chiste a nosotros. Juan told us that joke.
- Juan les contó ese chiste a ellos. Juan told them that joke.

A final reason for using the redundant construction is that this is the way it's done. Perhaps this is not a satisfying answer in the rational sense; however, all languages, like all people, have their distinct charms that defy reason. The redundant use of a + a noun or pronoun is part of the charm of Spanish.

ejercicio I-10-8

In a sentence with two verbs, choose one of the options (pronoun before the conjugated verb or attached to the infinitive) to express the sentence in Spanish. Unless otherwise indicated, you = second-person singular.

- I tell Juan everything: _____
- I want to tell him everything: _____
- She writes to her aunt every month. _____
- Why do you bring so much (tanto) to Mateo? _____
- She gives the documents to her attorney (el abogado). _____
- She has to give the money to the police (la policía). _____
- Margarita is giving (regalando) us a TV set. _____
- Oliver wants to give (regalar) me a watch from Carter! _____
- A: What are you making for (a) your friends? B: I'm making them a cake (la torta). _____
- I bring them a newspaper every morning. _____

49

Indirect Object Pronouns

- I usually buy them (¿) clothing for (para) Christmas. _____
- What should we buy her? _____
- Romeo sends Julia roses on Valentine's Day. _____
- Are they going to send you (¿), (formal) anything this year? _____
- George Washington cannot tell a lie (la mentira) to anyone. _____

Redundant use of Indirect object pronoun

- I buy the newspaper for my father. _____
- He told the dog "no." _____
- They answered their mother. _____
- Robert bought flowers for Mary. _____
- He wrote his girlfriend a poem (su novia un poema) _____
- I asked Paul if he wanted to go. _____
- I asked the teacher. _____
- Mother prepared food for the children. _____
- You brought your friends candy. _____
- I gave my mother a gift. _____