**PRONOUNS**

A pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun; for example, in English there are these common pronouns: I, you, he, she, it, we, they, me, him, her, us, them -- just to mention a few.

**INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS**

**Singular Plural**

***me*** *me/to me* ***nos*** *us/to us*

***te*** *you [familiar]/to you* ***os*** *all of you [familiar]/to you*

***le*** *you [formal]/to you* ***les*** *all of you [formal]/to you*

***le*** *him/to him* ***les*** *them/to them*

***le*** *her/to her* ***les*** *them/to them*

Note that ***me***, ***te***, ***nos*** and ***os*** are direct object pronouns, indirect object pronouns and reflexive pronouns.

Note that ***le*** as an indirect object has more than one meaning. If there is any doubt as to the meaning, merely add after the verb any of the following accordingly to clarify the meaning: ***a Ud.***, ***a él***, ***a ella***.

*Pablo* ***le*** *habla a usted. Pablo is talking* ***to you****.*

Note that ***les*** has more than one meaning. If there is any doubt as to the meaning, merely add after the verb any of the following, accordingly: ***a Uds.***, ***a ellos***, ***a ellas***.

*Pablo no* ***les*** *habla a ellos. Pablo is not talking* ***to them****.*

As you can see in the examples given above, an indirect object pronoun ordinarily is placed in front of the main verb.

An indirect object pronoun is needed when you use a verb that indicates a person is being deprived of something, e.g., to steal something from someone, to take something off or from someone, to buy something from someone, and actions of this sort. The reason an indirect object pronoun is needed is that you are dealing with the preposition a + noun or pronoun and it must be accounted for.

*Los ladrones* ***le*** *robaron todo el dinero a él. The robbers stole all the money* ***from him****.*

*La madre* ***le*** *quitó al niño el sombrero. The mother took off the child’s hat.*

The indirect object pronouns are used with the verb ***gustar*** and with the following verbs: ***bastar***, ***faltar*** or ***hacer falta***, ***quedarle*** *(a uno)*, ***tocarle*** *(a uno)*, ***placer***, ***parecer***.

*A Ricardo* ***le*** *gusta el helado. Richard likes ice cream. [Ice cream is pleasing* ***to him****, to Richard.]*

*A Juan* ***le*** *bastan cien dólares. One hundred dollars are enough for John.*

*A los muchachos* ***les*** *faltan cinco dólares. The boys need five dollars. [Five dollars are lacking* ***to them****, to the boys.]*

*A la mujer* ***le*** *hacen falta cinco dólares. The woman needs five dollars. [Five dollars are lacking* ***to her****, to the woman.]*

**Position of Double Object Pronouns: A Summary**

**1. An indirect object pronoun is always placed in front of a direct object pronoun. With a verb in a simple tense or in a compound tense in the affirmative or negative: The indirect object pronoun is placed in front of the direct object pronoun and both are placed in front of the verb form.**

*Juan* ***me*** *lo da. John is giving it* ***to me.***

*Juan* ***nos*** *los dio. John gave them* ***to us****.*

*María no* ***me*** *lo ha dado. Mary has not given it* ***to me****.*

**2. With a verb in a simple tense or in a compound tense in the interrogative: The indirect object pronoun remains in front of the direct object pronoun and both remain in front of the verb form. The subject (whether a noun or a pronoun) is placed after the verb form.**

*¿****Nos*** *la dio Juan? Did John give it t****o us****?*

**3. With a verb in the affirmative imperative (command): The object pronouns are still in the same order (indirect + direct object) but they are attached to the verb form and an accent mark is added on the vowel that was stressed in the verb form before the two object pronouns were added.**

*¡Díga****me****lo Ud., por favor! Tell it* ***to me****, please!*

**4. With a verb in the negative imperative (command): The position of no and the two object pronouns is the same as usual, in front of the verb form.**

*¡No* ***me*** *lo diga Ud., por favor! Don’t tell it* ***to me****, please!*

**5. When dealing with an infinitive, attach both object pronouns (indirect, direct) to the infinitive.**

*Juan quiere dár****me****lo. John wants to give it* ***to me****.*

**If the main verb is *poder*, *querer*, *saber*, *ir a*, you may place the two object pronouns in front of the main verb.**

*Juan* ***me*** *lo quiere dar. John wants to give it* ***to me****.*

**6. When dealing with the present participle, attach both object pronouns (indirect, direct) to the present participle:**

*Juan está escribiéndo****me****lo. John is writing it* ***to me****.*

**If the main verb is a progressive form with estar or another auxiliary, you may place the two object pronouns (indirect, direct) in front of the main verb.**

*Juan* ***me*** *lo está escribiendo. John is writing it* ***to me****.*

*Juana* ***me*** *lo estaba escribiendo. Jane was writing it* ***to me****.*

**6. When an indirect object pronoun and a direct object pronoun are both in the third person, the indirect object pronoun (le or les) changes to se because it cannot stand as le or les in front of a direct object pronoun beginning with the letter “l.”**

*Juan* ***se*** *lo da. John is giving it t****o you*** *(****to him****,* ***to her****,* ***to it****,* ***to you*** *[plural],* ***to them****).*

*¡Díga****sel****o Ud.! Tell it* ***to him****!*

*¡No* ***se*** *lo diga Ud.! Don’t tell it* ***to him****!*

*Juan quiere dár****se****lo. John wants to give it* ***to her****.*

*Juan* ***se*** *lo quiere dar. John wants to give it* ***to her****.*

*Juan está escribiéndo****se****lo. John is writing it* ***to them****.*

*Juan* ***se*** *lo está escribiendo. John is writing it* ***to them****.*

**Since the form *se* can have more than one meaing (to him, to her, to them, etc.), in addition to the fact that it looks exactly like the reflexive pronoun *se*, any doubt as to its meaning can be clarified merely by adding any of the following accordingly: *a Ud.*, *a él*, *a ella*, *a Uds.*, *a ellos*, *a ellas*.**

**When you are dealing with double object pronouns (one direct and the other indirect), remember that people are more important than things; therefore, the indirect object pronoun (usually referring to a person) goes in front of the direct object pronoun (usually referring to a thing).**