

# Direct Object Pronouns

## Part III

Remember, a **direct object** receives the action of the verb.

Bill hit **the ball**.

"Ball" **receives the action** of the verb "hit."

Sherry reads **the book**.

"Book" **receives the action** of the verb "reads."

And, the **direct object** can also be a person.

Sherry hit **Bill**.

**DO=Bill**

Also, remember that the **direct object** answers the question "**what?**" or "**whom?**" with regard to what the subject of the sentence is doing.

Bill hit the ball.

Sherry hit Bill.

Bill hit **what?**

Sherry hit **whom?**

Bill hit the **ball**.

Sherry hit **Bill**.

Often, it is desirable to replace the name of the **direct object** with a **pronoun**.

### Example 1

Paul bought **the flowers**. He took **the flowers** home and gave **the flowers** to his wife.

### Example 2

Paul bought **the flowers**. He took **them** home and gave **them** to his wife.

When the pronoun replaces the name of the **direct object**, use the following **pronouns**:

**me**

me

**te**

you-familiar

**lo, la**

him, her, it, you-formal

**nos**

us

os	you-all-familiar
los, las	them, you-all-formal

When a sentence has two verbs, the **first verb** is **conjugated** and the **second verb** remains in the **infinitive** form.

poder	to be able
pagar	to pay
<b>Puedo</b> pagar diez dólares.	I can pay ten dollars.

preferir	to prefer
hablar	to speak
Elena <b>prefiere</b> hablar español	Elena <b>prefers</b> to speak Spanish.

In sentences with two verbs, there are **two options** regarding the placement of the **direct object** pronoun.

1. Place it immediately before the **conjugated verb**.

2. Attach it directly to the **infinitive**.

Here are examples of the **direct object pronoun** placed **before** the **conjugated verb**:

<b>Lo</b> quiero ver.	I want to see <b>it</b> .
<b>Lo</b> debemos comprar.	We should buy <b>it</b> .
María <b>nos</b> debe visitar.	Mary should visit <b>us</b> .
Juan <b>lo</b> necesita lavar.	John needs to wash <b>it</b> .

Here are examples of the **direct object** pronoun **attached** directly to the **infinitive**:

Quiero ver <b>lo</b> .	I want to see <b>it</b> .
Debemos comprar <b>lo</b> .	We should buy <b>it</b> .
María debe visitarn <b>os</b> .	Mary should visit <b>us</b> .
Juan necesita lavar <b>lo</b> .	John needs to wash <b>it</b> .

Here are the two methods side by side. Neither method is "better" than the other.

**Lo** quiero ver.

Quiero verlo**.**

I want to see **it**.

**Lo** debemos comprar.

Debemos comprar**lo**.

We must buy **it**.

María **nos** debe visitar.

María **debe** visitarnos**.**

Mary should visit **us**.

Juan **lo** necesita lavar.

Juan **necesita** lavar**lo**.

John needs to wash **it**.

These same rules apply for questions and negative statements.

¿**Lo** debemos comprar?

¿**Debemos** comprar**lo**?

Should we buy **it**?

Juan **no lo** necesita lavar.

Juan **no** necesita lavar**lo**.

John **doesn't need** to wash **it**.

## **PRACTICE LINKS:**

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[Basic Quiz](#)

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