

# Direct Objects and Direct Object Pronouns

In a sentence, the Direct Object is what receives the direct action of the verb. It therefore follows the verb in an active voice sentence. It normally answers to the question who? and what?. For example:

The girls cleaned the house. What did they clean? - the house [the house is the direct object]

## The Direct Object Pronouns

Yo	me	nos	Nosotros
Tu	te	os	Vosotros
Él, Usted (male) ["it" masculine]	lo	los	Ellos, Ustedes ["those things" masculine]
Ella Usted (female) ["it" feminine]	la	las	Ellas, Ustedes ["those things" feminine]

## Placement of Object Pronouns

- Rule #1: If the verb is in an infinitive or a positive command the object pronoun ALWAYS goes after the verb
- Rule #2: If the verb is conjugated the object pronoun ALWAYS goes before the verb

## Por Ejemplo:

**I steal the car**

Now replace the Direct Object [the car] with a Direct Object Pronoun [it]:

**I steal it**

It is a direct object pronoun ("it" refers to what was stolen - in this case, a car)

Now let's look at the same sentence in Spanish:

**Yo robo el carro**

Again, let's examine the components of the sentence.

Now we replace the Direct Object (un carro) with a Direct Object Pronoun (lo)

We use “lo” because un carro is masculine and singular. Lo = it.

In Spanish you must place the direct object pronoun directly in front of the active (conjugated) verb:

**Yo lo robo**

Even when we have compound verbs – (Yo) lo voy a robar

OR we attach it to the end of a gerund / present participle or infinitive:

**Yo estoy robándolo** (present participle)

**Yo voy a robarlo** (infinitivo)

We put an accent on robando to preserve the pronunciation. If you aren't sure where to put the accent, cover up the direct object pronoun and say the gerund naturally. The stressed syllable is where you put the accent.