

## SUBJECT PRONOUNS



We will now break the pronoun chart down into smaller charts, yet retain the structure of the larger chart in order to help us understand the pronouns.

**Subject pronouns**, both singular and plural, act like stunt doubles. They do not look exactly like the original subject, but they are allowed to step in and **do the action**, or **live life** in the place of the subject.

○ means . . .	○ means . . .
yo I	nosotros we (more than one person saying "I")
tú you (friendly)	vosotros you (friendly - there's more than one friend)
él he	ellos they (a group with at least one "he")
ella she	ellas they (a group of girls only, no boys)
uds. you (polite)	uds. you (polite - there's more than one person)



*Yo vivo en un apartamento. Nosotros vivimos cerca.*

I live in an apartment. We live near (each other).



*Tú vives en una casa.*

You (my friend) live in a house.



*Vosotros vivís lejos.*

You (my friends) live far.



*Él vive con su mamá. Ellos viven sencillamente.*

He lives with his mom. They live simply.





### 4 WAYS TO SAY "YOU"

There are 2 ways to talk TO people, but 4 ways to say "you."

Q: How many people are you talking to?

- If only 1, you must stay on the left side, the singular side, and choose between *tú* and *usted*.
- If 2 or more, go to the right side, the plural side, and choose between *vosotros* and *ustedes*.

 means . . . <u>yo</u> I <u>tú</u> you (friendly) <u>él</u> he <u>ella</u> she <u>ud.</u> you (polite)	<div style="background-color: #00bfff; border-radius: 50%; width: 150px; height: 150px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> <p style="text-align: center;">If you want to say "yoU," look for a clUe, <b>tÚ, Usted, Ustedes.</b></p> </div>	 nosotros <u>vosotros</u> ellos ellas <u>uds.</u>
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On the singular side:

● ■  
*Tú* eres mi mejor amigo.  
 You are my best friend.

● ■      ● ■  
*Usted* es policía, y *yo* no quiero ningún denuncia, gracias.  
 You are a police officer, and I no want not one ticket, thanks.

On the plural side, the most commonly used form when outside of Spain is *ustedes*.

● ■      ● ■  
*Ustedes* son los mejores doctores. *Ustedes* pueden ayudar.  
 You are the best doctors. You can help.

Lots of people ignore *vosotros* and just use *ustedes*.

If, however, we delete *vosotros* from the chart we are foolish. The chart is incomplete without *vosotros*. We must remember that *vosotros* is the double (or more) of *tú*. You are allowed to have more than 1 friend. Just remember:

(For *Vosotros* the U was group hugged and turned into a V because you're all friends).

Besides, the place you most want to visit is Spain. And in Spain *vosotros* is more common than *ustedes*.

●      ■  
*Vosotros*    *tenéis*    *las entradas para la corrida, ¿no?*  
You      have    the tickets for the bullfight, right?

### ABOUT PEOPLE

Whenever you talk, you are talking to someone.

The question right now is not to whom, but about whom?

Within the chart you have three ways to talk:

- 1) about yourself,
- 2) about the person listening to you,
- 3) about other people.

○	means . . .	○
yo	I	<i>nosotros</i>
tú	you (friendly)	<i>vosotros</i>
él	he	<i>ellos</i>
ella	she	<i>ellas</i>
ud.	you (polite)	<i>uds.</i>

**hE**  
and **shE** both  
start with an **E**.  
**él, ella,**  
**ellos, ellas**

When you talk about yourself, you say either "I" or "we."

This is called *1st person*.

"We eat cookies with milk."

When you talk to someone else about what he or she does, you say "you."

This is called *2nd person*.

"Do you eat cookies?"

When you talk about other people and what they do, you say "he" or "she."

This is called *3rd person*.

"He does not eat cookies and she does not drink milk."

"They are strange."

"They" (*ellos, ellas*) is the way you talk ABOUT more than one person at a time.

● ■ ■  
*Ellos* tienen hambre, pero no tienen galletas.  
They have hunger, but (they) no have cookies.

So, if the **subject pronoun** is on the 1st line on the pronoun chart, it's *1st person*.

If it's on the 2nd line on the pronoun chart, *2nd person*.

Lines 3 & 4, the *él, ellos* and *ella, ellas* lines on the chart, are *3rd person*.

*Usted & ustedes* are on the 5th line, but are really *2nd person*.

They are a polite way of saying "you."

If you take a 2 and flip it, you can see a five 5.

Therefore, the 2nd line and the 5th line are different in appearance, but both mean *2nd person* (you).

*Usted* is just a bit more dressed up than *tú*.

*Tú* is your buddy. You can borrow gym clothes from *tú*.

*Usted* is the President. "Yes, sir, Mr. President."

Remember:

**Subject pronouns** do the action.

## REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS



Now we will begin to look at **purple pronouns**, starting with **reflexives**. Remember, **blue** does the action **to purple**.

**Reflexive pronouns** show that the action was done to one's self.

○	R	means . . .	○	R	means . . .
yo	me	myself	nosotros	nos	ourselves
tú	te	yourself	vosotros	os	yourselves
él	se	himself	ellos	se	themselves
ella	se	herself	ellas	se	themselves
ud.	se	yourself	uds.	se	yourselves

Bob is in a fight. Bob falls down. He picks himself up, dusts himself off, and gets back in the fight.

Whom does he pick up? **himself**  
 . . . and dust off? **himself**

Bob is doing the action to **himself**. Great! But it doesn't always translate to *himself*. Look below. Where's *himself*? *Himself* isn't said in English, but it's there in Spanish.

●      R      ■  
 Bob      se      cepilla      los dientes.  
 Bob (himself) brushes the teeth.

Yes, it seems obvious that Bob would brush his own teeth. Yet in Spanish, when people do an action to somebody, we say who that person is even if they're doing the action back upon themselves.

● R ■  
Yo me lavo las manos.  
I (myself) wash the hands.

● R ■  
Tú te secas con una toalla.  
You (yourself) dry with a towel.

● R ■  
Nosotros nos levantamos tarde.  
We (ourselves) get up late.

I would hope it is obvious that I wash my own hands. But that does not give me the right to ignore the fact that someone is receiving the action I am doing. It just so happens that the doer and the receiver are the same person.

We should notice this pattern:

● R ■

You can see the first part of this order reflected in the chart.

○	R	means ...	○	R	means ...
yo	me	myself	nosotros	nos	ourselves
tú	te	yourself	vosotros	os	yourselves
él	se	himself	ellos	se	themselves
ella	se	herself	ellas	se	themselves
ud.	se	yourself	uds.	se	yourselves

Remember:

**SUBJECTS** come before **REFLEXIVES**, then **VERBS**.  
(most of the time . . . )

## SOPs & iDOPs

### SOP iDOP ■ ●

**Stressed object pronouns** & **iNDirect object pronouns** are so often used together that they should be studied as a combination package.

First of all, these people are *NEVER* doing the action.  
 The action is always being done *TO* them.  
 Know this, and you will remember what they mean.

to me	<u>SOP</u> <u>a mí</u>	<u>iDOP</u> <u>me</u>	to me (or for me)	to us	<u>SOP</u> <u>a nosotros</u>	<u>iDOP</u> <u>nos</u>	to us
to you	<u>a ti</u>	<u>te</u>	to you (or for you)	to you	<u>a vosotros</u>	<u>os</u>	to you
to him	<u>a él</u>	<u>le</u>	to him (or for him)	to them (boys)	<u>a ellos</u>	<u>les</u>	to them
to her	<u>a ella</u>	<u>le</u>	to her (or for her)	to them (girls)	<u>a ellas</u>	<u>les</u>	to them
to you	<u>a ud.</u>	<u>le</u>	to you (or for you)	to you	<u>a uds.</u>	<u>les</u>	to you

Second, **SOPs** add clarity and emphasis. Look at the chart and see that *le* has 3 different meanings. How do we know who is iNDirectly receiving the action? We use **SOP** (pronounced “soap”).






*A ella le . . . to her le . . .*

**SOP** clears things up.

Here’s your most common use of **SOPs** & **iDOPs**:







**SOP** **iDOP** ■ ●  
*A mí me gusta el helado.*  
 To me to me is pleasing the ice cream.





**SOP** **iDOP** ■ ●  
*¿Y a ti? ¿Te gusta el helado?*  
 And to you? To you is pleasing the ice cream.

      
*A ella le interesan las películas de horror, pero a él, no.*  
 To her to her are interesting movies of horror, but to him, no.

You can see that the order of their appearance in the sentence matches the chart. **SOPs** come first, then **iDOPs**. This is true for both statements and questions.

     
*¡A nosotros no nos importa la opinión de otros!*  
 To us no to us it matters the opinion of others!

       
*¿A ellas les encantan los dulces, las flores, o la poesía?*  
 To them to them are very pleasing candies, flowers, or poetry?

     
*¿A ustedes les aparece una buena idea?*  
 To you all to you all does it seem a good idea?

You can see in these last two examples that the **SOP** really clarifies who we mean when we write **les**. In English it seems redundant to use a **SOP** and then an **iDOP**, but in Spanish it is often necessary.

Remember:

**SOP** clears things up.



## iDOPs & DOPs

### ● iDOP DOP ■

**iDOPs** are not used only with verbs like GUSTAR. **iDOPs** are often used with commands or in story telling. And besides being studied with **SOPs**, **iDOPs** should also be studied with **DOPs**.

**inDirect Object Pronouns, iDOPs**, indirectly receive the action.

**Direct Object Pronouns, DOPs**, directly receive the action.

iDOP	DOP		iDOP	DOP	
me	me	me	nos	nos	us
te	te	you	os	os	you
le	lo	him/it	les	los	them
le	la	her/it	les	las	them
le	lo/la	you	les	los/las	you

For example: Jackie Chan punched Chuck Norris in the face.

*No way!*

Yes, Chuck received the punch.



In English we could rewrite this sentence:

"He hit him."

In Spanish we would write:

● DOP ■  
Él lo golpeó en la cara.  
He him hit in the face.

Then we would write:

 **iDOP**      **DOP**  
*Y entonces él pateó por la pared.*  
 And then Chuck him kicked through the wall.

You can see that **iDOPs** come first, then **DOPs**. The order of their appearance in the sentence matches the chart. This is true for both statements and questions.



Let's look at the chart again. Here's the singular side.

Remember: **inDirect Object Pronouns, iDOPs**, indirectly receive the action.

	<b>iDOP</b>	<b>DOP</b>	
to me (or for me)	<i>me</i>	<i>me</i>	me
to you (or for you)	<i>te</i>	<i>te</i>	you
to him (or for him)	<i>le</i>	<i>lo</i>	him/it
to her (or for her)	<i>le</i>	<i>la</i>	her/it
to you (or for you)	<i>le</i>	<i>lo/la</i>	you

Let's say I bought some chocolate for us to share. The thing I bought was the chocolate. Chocolate directly received my action. This **Direct Object** becomes a **Direct Object Pronoun** when I say *it* instead of *chocolate*. *It* directly received my action.

Now which people are indirectly receiving my action of buying chocolate?  
 Or, *for whom* did I buy it?

 **iDOP**     **DOP**       
*Yo nos compré.*  
 I for us it I bought.

For us.

Where did the *lo* come from?

*Lo* is a **DOP** from the singular side of the chart, meaning *him* **but also meaning it**.

See *it*?

Good. Now watch for *las*.

Here's the plural side.

	iDOP	DOP	
to us (or for us)	<u>nos</u>	<u>nos</u>	us
to you (or for you)	<u>os</u>	<u>os</u>	you
to them (or for them)	<u>les</u>	<u>los</u>	them
to them (or for them)	<u>les</u>	<u>las</u>	them
to you (or for you)	<u>les</u>	<u>los/las</u>	you

¿Qué **iDOP** **le** **diste** **tú** **SOP** **a Mamá**? ¿Las flores?  
What to her gave you to Mom? Flowers?

**iDOP** **DOP**  
¿Yo **se** **las** **di**!  
I to her them gave!

*Las* came from the plural side of the chart, meaning *them*, as in more than one item. *Las* doesn't have to replace people. Neither does *lo*. The **DOPs** you will use most often will be the ones that refer to items and mean *it* or *them*: *lo*, *la*, *los*, and *las*.

I bought chocolate **for us** and gave flowers **to Mom**. The words **to** and **for** help you know it's an **iDOP** and not a **DOP**. And most often it's the **iDOPs** that are people.

Did you notice that **iDOPs** continue to come before **DOPs**?

Yes.

Good.

Did you see how *le*, when it came before *las*, changed to *se*? *¿Yo se las di!* Try saying *le lo* and then try saying *se lo*. That's your reason for the change. It's easier to say. There is no change in meaning.

Remember:

The **DOPs** you will use most often will mean *it* or *them*: *lo*, *la*, *los*, and *las*.

## PRONOUN SUMMARY

Look again at the whole chart.  
It's not all that threatening, is it?  
Just remember how they work.

This column can work alone.

-Yo hablo español.-  
"I speak Spanish."

○	R	soP	iDoP	DoP
yo	me	a mí	me	me
tú	te	a ti	te	te
él	se	a él	le	lo
ella	se	a ella	le	la
ud.	se	a ud.	le	lo/la

These columns work together if the action is done back upon the doer.

-Yo me llamo Bob.-  
"I myself call Bob."

These work together to clarify to or for whom the action is done.

-A ti, sí yo te quiero dar estas flores, Ana.-  
"To you, yes I to you want to give these flowers, Ana."

Action happens directly to these people or things.

-¿Me amas ahora?-  
"Me do you love now?"  
-¡Sí! Te beso, mi amor.-  
"Yes, you I kiss, my love."

Alone? -*Nosotros*  
 No prob. *somos pareja.*-  
 "We are a couple."

○	R	SOP	¡DOP	DOP
<i>nosotros</i>	<i>nos</i>	<i>a nosotros</i>	<i>nos</i>	<i>nos</i>
<i>vosotros</i>	<i>os</i>	<i>a vosotros</i>	<i>os</i>	<i>os</i>
<i>ellos</i>	<i>se</i>	<i>a ellos</i>	<i>les</i>	<i>los</i>
<i>ellas</i>	<i>se</i>	<i>a ellas</i>	<i>les</i>	<i>las</i>
<i>uds.</i>	<i>se</i>	<i>a uds.</i>	<i>les</i>	<i>los/las</i>

Work together to do action to *themselves*.

*Ellos se aman.*  
*They themselves*  
 love each other.

Clarify *to* or *for* whom.

*A ellos nosotros les*  
*damos un regalo de*  
*boda pronto, ¿no?*  
*To them we to them*  
 will give a wedding gift  
 soon, right?

Directly receive action.

*¡No lo creo!*  
*¿Los ves juntos?*  
*It I don't believe!*  
*Them you* see  
 together?

Remember:

The plural side is the double (or more) of whatever is on the singular side.