



What are Spanish Pronouns?

Contrast and compare the following example paragraphs without and then with pronouns, respectively.

Example Paragraph without Pronouns

Clara es nuestra vecina. Clara es muy grosera.
No le digas a Clara de la fiesta. No queremos invitar a Clara.

Example Paragraph with Pronouns

Clara es nuestra vecina y ella es muy grosera.
No le digas de la fiesta. No queremos invitarla.

- Pronouns replace nouns to avoid unnecessary repetition.
 - They take on the qualities of the noun they replace: **number** and **often gender**.
- There are different types of pronouns depending on their function in the sentence.



Spanish Subject Pronouns

- Replace the **subject** of the sentence: the person or thing performing the action.
- They have **plural and singular** forms. Some change **based** on gender.
 - *Vosotros, nosotros.*
- Due to verb conjugation, these pronouns are often **omitted** from sentences.

Subject Pronoun	Translation	Subject Pronoun	Translation
Yo	I	Nosotros	We
Tú	You	Vosotros	You (plural)
Él / Ella	He / She	Ellos / Ellas	Them
Usted	You (formal)	Ustedes	You (plural)

(Yo) quiero ver una película, pero **ellas** no tienen ganas. ¿**Tú** qué quieres hacer?
I want to watch a movie, but they don't feel like it. What do you want to do?



Reflexive Pronouns

Subject Pronoun	Reflexive Pronoun	Subject Pronoun	Reflexive Pronoun
Yo	Me	Nosotros	Nos
Tú	Te	Vosotros	Os
Él / Ella / Ud	Se	Ellos / Ellas / Uds	Se

- They indicate that the subject and object are the same person (actions we do on ourselves).
- Reflexive pronouns cannot **be omitted** or the sentence would be incomplete.

Me voy a poner un suéter porque tengo frío.
I'm going to put on a sweater because I'm cold.

Voy a poner un suéter porque tengo frío.
I'm going to put a sweater because I'm cold.

Reciprocal Pronouns

- They're the same as the **plural reflexive pronouns** 'se', 'nos', 'os'.
 - They cannot be omitted: they replace the subject and object.
- They convey that **2+ people perform** an action on each other.

Karla y yo **nos** queremos mucho. Pero Karla y Linda no **se** llevan bien.
Karla and I love each other a lot. But Karla and Linda don't get along well.

Examples of Reciprocal Verbs

1. **Abrazarse** - To hug
2. **Enamorarse** - To love
3. **Besarse** - To kiss
4. **Casarse** - To marry
5. **Conocerse** - To know/meet
6. **Quererse** - To love



Direct & Indirect Object Pronouns

Subject Pronoun	Direct Object Pronoun	Indirect Object Pronoun
Yo	Me	Me
Tú	Te	Te
Él / Ella / Usted	Lo/La*	Le
Nosotros	Nos	Nos
Vosotros	Os	Os
Ellos / Ellas / Ustedes	Los/Las*	Les

* Direct Object Pronouns for the 3rd person mark gender.

- Direct object pronouns replace the **target** of the action. **What or whom** I do something to.
- Indirect object pronouns replace the part **affected or benefited** by the action. This person or thing usually **receives something**.

Le compré estas flores a mi mamá, ¡**las** pongo en la mesa?
I bought mom these flowers. Do I put them on the table?

A ti **te** traje un pedazo del pastel. ¡Pruébalo!
I brought you a slice of the cake. Try it!

Take Note: DOPs & IOPs refer to others; reflexives act on oneself.

Le compré unas flores.
I bought her some flowers.

Mi mamá **se** compró unas flores.
My mom bought herself some flowers.



Possessive Pronouns

- They replace the noun while expressing **possession** and agree in **gender** and **number** with the possession, not the owner.

Pronoun	Masculine ♂	Feminine ♀
Mine	Mío(s)	Mía(s)
Yours	Tuyo(s)	Tuya(s)
His/Hers/Yours	Suyo(s)	Suya(s)
Ours	Nuestro(s)	Nuestra(s)
Yours	Vuestro(s)	Vuestra(s)
Theirs/Yours	Suyo(s)	Suya(s)

¿Este libro es **tuyo**? No es **mío** y Clara dice que no es **suyo**. Por cierto, tus notas son **estas**, las **nuestras** están en la mesa.

Is this book yours? It's not mine and Clara says it's not hers. By the way, your notes are these, ours are on the table.

Prepositional Pronouns

Prepositional Pronouns	
Yo / Mí	Nosotros
Tú / Ti	Vosotros
Él / Ella	Ellos / Ellas
Usted	Ustedes

- They're pronouns we place after **prepositions**.
- They're similar to subject pronouns, but 'tú' and 'yo' have **special forms** with most prepositions.



Interrogative Pronouns

- Qué, cuál, cuánto, quién are **interrogative pronouns**.
- 'Cuál' and 'quién' have **plural forms**. 'Cuánto' marks gender too.

¿**Qué** pediste?
What did you order?

¿**Cuáles** te gustan?
Which ones do you like?

¿A **quiénes** invitaste?
Whom did you invite?

¿**Cuánta** necesitas?
How much do you need?

Demonstrative Pronouns

- They express the **distance** between the speaker, listener and the noun. They mark **gender** and **number**.

Close	Medium	Far
Este / esta (<i>this</i>) Estos / estas (<i>these</i>)	Ese / esa (<i>that</i>) Esos / Esas (<i>those</i>)	Aquel / aquella (<i>that</i>) Aquellos / aquellas (<i>those</i>)

No me gusta **esa**, prefiero **esta** o **aquella**.
I don't like that one, I prefer this one or that one over there.



Indefinite Pronouns

- Indefinite pronouns are used to refer to **non-specific** people or things while conveying existence, quantity, or identity.

Pronoun	Translation	Pronoun	Translation
Alguien*	Someone/Anyone	Mucho	A lot of/Many/Much
Algo*	Something	Uno	One
Ninguno	No one/Nobody/None	Primero	First
Nada*	Nothing Anything	Ambos	Both
Nadie*	Nobody	Varios	Every / All / Everybody
Poco	Few / Little	Todo(s)	Every / All / Everybody
Tanto	Much	Cualquiera*	Anyone/Any
Otro	Other/Another		

* These pronouns only have a single form (they do not mark number nor gender).

Take Note: Numbers also fall into this category. Uno, dos, tres.

Creo que hay **alguien** en el patio, ¿**todos** estamos aquí?

I think there's someone in the yard. Is everyone here?

¿Traes una pluma? No traigo **nada** porque dejé **todo** en mi casa.

Do you have a pen? I don't have anything because I left everything at home.

Dame **otra** por favor, **cualquiera** está bien.

Give me another one please. Any one is fine.



Relative Pronouns

La **casa** me gusta. La **casa** es azul.
I like the house. The house is blue.

Mi **vecino** es doctor. Mi **vecino** es muy amable.
My neighbor is a doctor. My neighbor is very nice.

- They **join two clauses** that talk about the same subject or object.

La casa **que** me gusta es azul.
The house I like is blue.

Mi vecino, **quien** es doctor, es muy amable.
My neighbor, who is a doctor, is very nice.

Here's a list of Spanish relative pronouns:

1. **Que** can refer to people, places, things.
2. **Quien** only refers to people.
3. **Cuyo** expresses possession and marks gender and number.
4. **Donde** expresses location.
5. **El que / la que** work like 'que', placed after prepositions.
6. **Lo que** refers to ideas, concepts, or actions.

Example Sentences

Ana, **cuyos** lentes encontraste la semana pasada, es mi vecina.
Ana, whose glasses you found last week, is my neighbor.

La ciudad **donde** nací es muy pequeña.
The city where I was born is very small.

Esa es la chica de **la que** te hablé.
That's the girl I talked to you about.

Estoy enojada con Juan por **lo que** te hizo.
I'm mad at Juan because of what he did to you.



Challenge

Write a sentence for each of the following scenarios:

1. Describe your family member's activities using a subject pronoun.

2. Mention a daily routine action using a reflexive pronoun.

3. Combine two related sentences into one using a relative pronoun.

4. Describe something you own using a possessive pronoun.

5. Listing what's close to you using demonstratives and indefinites.

Resources

- [Spanish Pronouns 101: All Types & 60+ Pronouns](#)
- [Pronombres en Español: 10 Tipos y 60+ Pronombres \(Immersion\)](#)
- [Spanish Indirect vs Direct Object Pronouns.](#)
- [Spanish Prepositional Pronouns.](#)

