

PRONOUNS

Pronouns are words we use to replace nouns. When these words substitute noun, they can be subject or object pronouns.

The subject pronouns indicate what or who is doing the action. In Spanish, the subject pronouns are not always included, as you can know who or what is doing the action by the end of the verb. They can be used for emphasis.

The personal subject pronouns are:

yo = I – **tú (usted)** = you – **él** = he – **ella** = she

nosotros/as = we – **vosotros/as (ustedes)** - you – **ellos/ellas** = they

En casa de Miguel, **él** es **ella** y **ella** es **él**.

Notes:

a) **It**, it's never used as a subject in Spanish.

Es importante = **It's** important

b) In Spanish there are several words for 'you'. The form you use depends on to whom you are speaking.

The object pronouns replace the person or thing to which the action of the verb is directed. There are two types of object pronouns;

a) Direct object pronouns: when the action of the verb affects the pronoun directly: **Te** quiero = I love you

b) Indirect object pronoun: when the action of the verb affects the pronoun indirectly: **Te la** doy = I give it to you; **la** (the letter) is the direct object pronoun and **Te** (to you) is the indirect object pronoun.

Direct object pronouns:

me = me – te (le) = you – lo (le) = him – la = her –
lo, la = it – nos = us – os (les) = you - los, las = them

Si **me** miras y **te** miro
los dos bajamos los ojos,
y no nos decimos nada, (to each other)
y nos lo decimos todo.

Indirect object pronouns:

me, mí = to me (**conmigo** = with me)
te, ti = to you (**contigo** = with you, familiar)
le = to you (con usted, with you, formal)
le = to her, to him, etc.

Ni **contigo**, ni sin **ti**
a mis males hay remedio:
contigo porque **me** matas
y sin **ti**, porque me muero. (myself)

Dale de beber, mujer, (Give a drink **to him**, woman;
que el Cid cabalga a Valencia; (The Cid rides to Valencia)
y aunque sus penas de hoy sean hiel, (may be bitter)
mañana, las penas, serán miel.
(S. Ortiz-Carboneres)