
Unit 1 - Review #5

Direct Object Pronouns

Now that you've survived the previous review lessons from Unit 1 that were so long, this one will be a treat! We are going to review one of my favorite things in the Italian language, **Direct Object Pronouns!**

In review #4 we went over the verb **PIACERE** and **Indirect Object Pronouns**. Although **Direct Object Pronouns** are different, you may find them easier to learn and understand!

Before we begin,

Write down all that you remember and know about DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS:



Direct Object Pronouns

Direct Object Pronouns replace the **object** of the **verb**. In English, if you are talking about giving someone a GIFT, for example, you may replace the word GIFT with **IT**, so you don't have to keep repeating the word GIFT over and over again. Or, you may replace your friend's NAME with **YOU** or **SHE** etc.

In Italian these **Direct Object Pronouns** are attached to the verb and go right **before** the **verb**. They basically become one (at least when speak!) with the **verb**. Most verbs have an object and therefore can use **Direct Object Pronouns**. Not every verb needs or works with a **recipient**, and therefore not all verbs can be used with **Indirect Object Pronouns**.

Let's have a look at these **Direct Object Pronouns**:

1st person singular	MI	<i>me</i>
2nd person singular	TI	<i>you</i>
3rd person singular	LA / LO	<i>her, it, him, it, you Sir, you Ma'am</i>
1st person plural	CI	<i>us</i>
2nd person plural	VI	<i>you guys</i>
3rd person plural	LE / LI	<i>them</i>

Potential confusion: - 3rd person: it, You Sir/Ma'am, him/her

An **object** of a sentence can be something tangible, a person or something abstract, like *freedom*.

Right now you know how to say basic sentences that use **Direct Object Pronouns** like:

La mangio (la mela) *I'm eating it (something feminine like an apple)*

Lo compro (il cappello) *I'm buying it (something masculine like a hat)*

La compro (la camicia) *I'm buying it (something feminine like a shirt)*

Direct Object Pronouns answer the question WHOM/WHAT? You can ask someone:

Conosci Maria? *Do you know Maria?*



In this sentence Maria is the **object**. We could ask “**Conosco... chi?**”, the answer to which would be “**Maria**”. So you could either respond with saying,

Conosco Maria *I know Maria*

or,

La conosco *I know her*

Italian makes it relatively easy to detect when we are dealing with a **recipient** of a verb (and therefore in need of an **Indirect Object Pronoun**), since a noun near a verb that is preceded by a preposition is never the **object** of the verb! Plus, it fails the WHO/WHAT test!

On the other hand, English can be tricky:

I give Maria a book

The **verb** in this sentence is **I GIVE**, so in English, **MARIA** MIGHT look like the **object** because it comes after a **verb**. But, what is the thing I am giving? **MARIA** or a **BOOK**? Clearly a **BOOK**, so the **BOOK** is the **object** and **MARIA** is the **recipient**.

Picking the right pronoun

If you said:

Compro le fragole *I buy strawberries*

And wanted to replace **LE FRAGOLE** with **THEM**, which **Direct Object Pronoun** would you use?

Look at the table above and choose a **Direct Object Pronoun** to replace **LE FRAGOLE**:

- LE
- LI

The answer is **LE** because **LE FRAGOLE** is **Feminine Plural**.

We can also say:

Le compro *I buy them*

Le compro domani *I'll buy them tomorrow*

Le compro in frutteria *I'll buy them at the fruit shop*



Here are some NO NO's!

Since we are still beginners reaching closer to that intermediate level, there are some common mistakes you may be making with pronouns. Here are the NO NO's and things you should remember NOT to do.

- DO NOT use the **Stressed Pronoun** instead of the **Direct Object**. Just because Stressed Pronouns are easier to use! This is an easy one to get confused, but do your best to avoid it.

In Italian we say:

Ti vedo	<i>I see you</i>	NOT	*Vedo te
Vi amo	<i>I love you guys</i>	NOT	*Amo voi
Ci ammirate	<i>You guys admire us</i>	NOT	*Ammirate noi
Li conosco	<i>I know them</i>	NOT	*Conosco loro

While the expressions marked with the asterisk are grammatically possible, they should only be used in the rare case we need a very specific kind of emphasis on the object of the verb.

- DO NOT use **Direct Object Pronouns** with the verb **PIACERE!** (We use **Indirect Object Pronouns** with **PIACERE**, remember?)

In Italian we say:

Mi piace	<i>I like it</i>	NOT	*Lo mi piace
Vi piacciono?	<i>Do you like them?</i>	NOT	*Li vi piacciono?

MI PIACE already means **I LIKE IT**, so you don't have to add **LO**. Same in the second example, **PIACCIONO** already implies **THEM** so you don't have to add **LI**. If you overthink this then you will naturally over complicate it and make these mistakes. Do your best to slow it down and truly understand what the difference between **Direct** and **Indirect Object Pronouns** is, and when we use them.

Too many pronouns!

Here is a table with all of the **pronouns** we've reviewed so far. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with it and see which **pronouns** overlap and stay the same, and which **pronouns** change.



	SUBJECT	DIRECT	INDIRECT	STRESSED
1 st p.s.	IO	MI	MI	ME
2 nd p.s.	TU	TI	TI	TE
3 rd p.s.	LEI LUI	LA LO	LE GLI	LEI LUI
1 st p.p.	NOI	CI	CI	NOI
2 nd p.p.	VOI	VI	VI	VOI
3 rd p.p.	LORO	LE LI	GLI	LORO

Examples:

Tu mi ami *You love me* **TU** (subject) **MI** (direct object) **AMI** (Verb)

Tu mi regali un libro *You gift me a book* **TU** (subject) **MI** (indirect object) **REGALI**(verb)

Take a look at the two examples above. They both use the pronoun **MI**. But, in the first sentence **MI** is a **direct object pronoun**, and in the second sentence **MI** is an **indirect object pronoun**. Why?

In, **Tu mi regali un libro**, the *BOOK* is the **object**, and *I* am the **recipient**. Therefore, **MI** is an **indirect object pronoun**.

Tu regali un libro a me *You give a book to me* **TU** (subject) **REGALI** (verb)
A ME (stressed pronoun)

In this sentence, **A ME** is a **stressed pronoun** for the **recipient** of the **verb** (gifting a present).

More examples:

Lei lo conosce *She knows him* **LEI** (subject) **LO** (Direct Object)
Lei gli regala un libro *She gifts a book to him* **LEI** (Subject) **GLI** (Indirect object)
Lei regala un libro a lui *She gifts a book to him* **LEI** (Subject) **A LUI** (Stressed Pronoun)



Don't forget that the standard version of Italian will use the **Indirect Pronoun**, not the **Stressed Pronoun** (which we use for emphasis).

Exercise

Below you will find twenty short sentences with some parts underlined. Your job is to replace the parts that are underlined with the correct pronoun (direct, indirect or stressed). There are a few tricky ones, so do take your time. Also, you will NOT find the solutions here (but we will discuss this entire exercise later on in this Unit).

While I always discourage completing exercises in writing first, putting a lot more emphasis in oral production, during a review phase it is good to check how well we know the grammar, so we can then focus on using it when speaking!

1. Vedete quella ragazza? È mia sorella!

2. Non conosco la moglie di Vito.

3. Stefano porta un mazzo di fiori a Sara.

4. Stefano porta un mazzo di fiori a Sara.

5. Vorrei ordinare quella torta...

6. Vorrei ordinare quella torta per te.

7. Il marito di Sandra prende il caffè al bar tutti i giorni.

8. Gli studenti dicono cose molte carine al loro insegnante.



9. Alla mia ragazza non piace Vivaldi.

10. I genitori di Marco vogliono affittare casa ai tuoi amici.

11. I genitori di Marco vogliono affittare casa ai tuoi amici.

12. Stasera guardiamo il nuovo film di Muccino?

13. Quando lavate i piatti?

14. Luigi prepara la cena per noi.

15. Luigi prepara la cena per noi.

16. Possiamo portare una bottiglia di vino alla vostra festa?

17. Leggi le storie di Italo Calvino?

18. Purtroppo dobbiamo restituire la macchina a Luca e Sandra...

19. Purtroppo dobbiamo restituire la macchina a Luca e Sandra...

20. Mi piacerebbe (I would like) andare in Sicilia...



Your Notes

