



SPANISH TABLE

Direct/Indirect Object Pronouns



When do you put accent marks on infinitives, gerunds, and imperatives when they are combined with object pronouns?

As discussed in our post, **indirect** and **direct** object pronouns get attached to infinitives, imperatives, and gerunds:

	Positive imperative	Infinitive	Gerund
Verb form	compra	comprar	comprando
Direct object	cómpralo	comprar lo	compránd olo
Indirect object	cómprale	comprar le	compránd ole
Indirect object + Direct object	cómprase lo cómpra me lo	comprá se lo comprá me lo	compránd ose lo compránd ome lo

As pointed out in our blog post, some verb forms have an accent mark when combined with these pronouns (*compra*, *cómpralo*, *compráselo*). Regardless of the “extra syllables” (object pronouns) added to the verb, the stressed syllable is the same as in the original verb form. For example, take a look at *compra* below. In *compra*, the stressed syllable is ‘com,’ the second syllable starting from the end of the word (com - pra). When we add the pronoun, the stressed syllable is the same ‘com’, but this time it is the third syllable starting from the end. According to the Spanish accent rules, all the words whose stressed syllable is the third syllable starting from the end, need to have an accent mark.

- (1) *Compra*: stressed syllable *com*
(second syllable starting from the end)
- (2) *Cómpralo*: stressed syllable *com*
(now it is the third syllable starting from the end, and we must write the accent mark).

What happens if the original verb form is one-syllable? Take, for instance, the command *da* (give). If you only add one pronoun, the result is a two-syllable word “*dalo*” (give it), in which case you don’t need a written accent. However, if you add two pronouns, then you’ll end up with a three-syllable word, so you need to mark the original stressed syllable: “*dáselo*” (give it to him/her).

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