

Indirect Object Pronouns

In **Lezione 5A**, you learned that a direct object answers the question *what?* or *whom?* An indirect object identifies *to whom* or *for whom* an action is done.

Subject	Verb	Indirect Object
Le ragazze <i>The girls</i>	parlano <i>are speaking</i>	al cameriere. <i>to the waiter.</i>

- In Italian, indirect objects are always preceded by a preposition, typically **a**, but sometimes **per**.

Dà lo scontrino **a Mario**. – *Give the receipt to Mario.*

Hai preparato uno spuntino **per me**? – *Did you make a snack for me?*

- You have already learned some verbs commonly used with indirect objects, including **chiedere, dare, dire, domandare, insegnare, mandare, offrire, parlare, portare, rispondere, scrivere, spiegare, and telefonare**. The following verbs are also used with indirect objects.

Additional verbs used with indirect objects

consigliare	to recommend	prestare	to lend
mostrare	to show	regalare	to give (as a gift)
preparare	to prepare	restituire (-isc-)	to give back

- Indirect objects can be replaced with indirect object pronouns. Direct and indirect object pronouns have identical forms, except in the third person.

Indirect object pronouns

singular		plural	
mi	(to, for) me	ci	(to, for) us
ti	(to, for) you	vi	(to, for) you
Le	(to, for) you (form., m. or f.)		
gli	(to, for) him	gli (loro)	(to, for) them
le	(to, for) her		

*Like direct object pronouns, indirect object pronouns either precede a conjugated verb or are attached to an infinitive.

Il cuoco non **gli prepara** il contorno. – *The cook doesn't **prepare** the side dish **for him**.*

Devi **darle** una buona mancia. – *You have to **give her** a good tip.*

- **Loro** is an exception; always place it after the verb, and do not attach it to infinitives. In modern usage, however, **gli** is the preferred way to express *to/for them*.

Il cameriere mostra **loro** il menu. (Il cameriere **gli** mostra il menu.)

Volete regalare **loro** la torta? (Volete regalar**gli** la torta?)

- Note that the pronouns **le** and **gli** never elide before vowels, and that past participles do not agree in gender or number with indirect object pronouns.

La mamma sta bene. **Le** ho telefonato ieri.

Chi è Giorgio? Non **gli** abbiamo mai parlato.

- In **Lezione 2B** you learned to use indirect object pronouns with the verb **piacere**.

SUBJECT ↔ INDIRECT OBJECT

L'insalata mi piace

SUBJECT ↔ DIRECT OBJECT

I like salad.

- Note that the subject of the English sentence corresponds to the indirect object pronoun of the Italian sentence. Unlike in English, in Italian the thing that is being liked is the subject of the sentence.

Ti piacciono **i dolci** fatti in casa? Vi è piaciuta **la zuppa**?

- Other verbs that use a similar construction include **mancare** (*to miss*), **bastare** (*to be enough*), **restare** (*to remain*), **sembrare** (*to seem*), and **dispiacere** (*to be sorry*). Like **piacere**, these verbs are conjugated with **essere** in the **passato prossimo**.

Provalo! Scegli il pronome indiretto corretto.

1. Tu (mi / ci) mostri la nuova pasticceria. (a noi)
2. Loro (ti / mi) invitano al ristorante. (a te)
3. Antonella (vi / le) prepara la pasta fatta in casa. (a voi)
4. Io ed Edoardo (le / gli) portiamo una crostata. (a lei)
5. Adriana e Leonardo (mi / vi) portano un gelato. (a me)
6. Il cameriere (mi / gli) consiglia un antipasto. (a loro)