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## Prepositional Pronouns

The easy part about learning the grammar of pronouns in Spanish is that they follow a structure similar to the pronouns of English, serving as subjects as well as objects of verbs and prepositions. The tricky part, as least for people whose first language is English, is remembering which pronouns to use. While English uses the same pronouns as objects of prepositions and for direct and indirect objects of verbs, Spanish has a different set of pronouns for each usage, and those sets overlap.

And to make matters a bit more confusing, that overlap means that in some cases the same pronouns used as subjects can become objects of prepositions, although not objects of verbs.

In any case, here are the pronouns used as prepositional pronouns, along with examples of their use.

<i>mí</i>	me	<i>El regalo es para mí.</i>	The gift is for <b>me</b> .
<i>ti</i>	you (informal singular)	<i>El regalo es para ti.</i>	The gift is for <b>you</b> .
<i>usted</i>	you (formal singular)	<i>El regalo es para usted.</i>	The gift is for <b>you</b> .
<i>él</i>	him, it	<i>El regalo es para él. Miro bajo él.</i>	The gift is for <b>him</b> . I am looking under <b>it</b> .
<i>ella</i>	her, it	<i>El regalo es para ella. Miro bajo ella.</i>	The gift is for <b>her</b> . I am looking under <b>it</b> .
<i>nosotros</i>	us	<i>El regalo es para nosotros.</i>	The gift is for <b>us</b> .
<i>nosotras</i>			
<i>vosotros</i> <i>vosotras</i>	you (informal plural)	<i>El regalo es para vosotros.</i>	The gift is for <b>you</b> .
<i>ustedes</i>	you (formal plural)	<i>El regalo es para ustedes.</i>	The gift is for <b>you</b> .
<i>ellos</i> <i>ellas</i>	them	<i>El regalo es para ellos.</i>	The gift is for <b>them</b> .

**Note on *sí*:** There is also another prepositional object that is occasionally used. *Sí* is used to mean "himself," "herself," the formal "yourself," the formal "yourselves," or "themselves" as the object of a preposition. For example, *él compra el regalo para sí*, he is buying the gift for himself. One reason you don't see this usage very often is because the meaning is usually expressed using the reflexive form of the verb rather than this way. *Se compra un regalo*, he is buying himself a gift.

**Note on "it":** Either *él* or *ella* can mean "it" as the object of a preposition, although as a subject there is no Spanish word used for "it." The word used depends on the gender of the noun it replaces, with *él* being used for masculine nouns and *ella* being used for feminine nouns. *¿Dónde está la mesa? Necesito mirar bajo ella.* Where is the table? I need to look under it. *¿Dónde está el carro? Necesito mirar bajo él.* Where is the car? I need to look under it.

Similarly, *ellos* and *ellas*, when used as a preposition pronoun meaning "them," can be used to represent things as well as people.

**Contigo and conmigo:** Instead of saying *con mí* and *con ti*, use *conmigo* and *contigo*. *Él va conmigo*, he is going with me. *Ella va contigo*, she is going with you. You also should use *consigo* instead of *con sí*. *Él habla consigo*, he talks with himself.

**The exceptions:** Finally, note that *yo* and *tú* are used with the following six prepositions instead of with *mí* and *ti*, respectively: *excepto* (usually translated as "except"), *incluso* ("including" or "even"), *menos* ("except"), *salvo* ("except") and *según* ("according to"). Also, *hasta* is used with the subject pronouns when it is used in the same way as *incluso*. *Es la diferencia entre yo y tú*, it's the difference between you and me. *Muchas personas incluso/hasta yo creen en las hadas*, many people including me believe in fairies. *Todos excepto/menos/salvo tú creen en las hadas*, everybody except you believes in fairies. *Es la verdad según yo*, it's the truth according to me.

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