SPANISH SENTENCE STRUCTURES

BASIC SENTENCE (SUBJECT + VERB + OBJECT)

María tiene un carro rojo.

S V O

SENTENCE WITH DIRECT AND INDIRECT OBJECTS

María le da el dinero a Jorge.

S RIOP V D.O. I.O.

(Prepositional Phrase)

SENTENCE WITH A DIRECT OBJECT AND AN INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUN

María le da el dinero a él

S RIOP V D.O. I.O.

(Prepositional Phrase)

SENTENCE WITH TWO -2- OBJECT PRONOUNS (DIRECT & INDIRECT)

María se lo da a él

S RIOP D.O. V I.O.

(Prepositional Phrase)

SENTENCE WITH “BACK TO FRONT VERBS” (i.e. GUSTAR)

A mí me gusta estudiar español.

Prep. I.O.P. V Object

A Georgia le gustan las frutas.

Prep. I.O.P. V Object

SUBJECT PRONOUNS

yo I nosotros we
tú you (fam) vosotros you (fam)
el he ellos they (masc)
ella she elllas they (fam)
usted you (f) ustedes you (pl)

DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

me me nos us
te you (fam) os you (fam)
le him, you (used in Spain) los them, you
lo him, you, it las them, you

INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

me (to) me nos (to) us
te (to) you (fam) os (to) you (fam)
le (to) him, her, you you, it
le (to) them, you

COMMON “BACK TO FRONT” VERBS

aburrir to bore
bastar to be sufficient
cae r bien (mal) to (not) suit
dar asco to be loathsome
disgustar to hate something
doler (o:ue) to be painful
e ncantar to “love” something
faltar to be lacking something
fascinar to be fascinating to
importar to be important to
interesar to be interesting to
SENTENCE WITH “BACK TO FRONT VERBS” (i.e. GUSTAR)  (CONT’D)

Γ - agrees with ----- ¬  Γ - agrees with - ¬
A ellos  no  les  gusta  el español.

Prep.  Neg  I.O.P.  V  Object
Phrase  liked / not liked

COMMON “BACK TO FRONT” VERBS cont’d
molestar to be a bother
parecer to appear to be
picar to itch
quedar to be left over, remain
volver (o:ue) loco to be crazy about

SENTENCE WITH REFLEXIVE VERBS (i.e. LAVARSE)

Yo  me  lavo  la  cara.

S  R.P.  V  D.A.  O
(Reflexive Pronoun)  (Definitive Article)

Georgia  se  lava  las  manos.

S  R.P.  V  D.A.  O

SENTENCE USING THE SUBJUNCTIVE
(Usually, a compound sentence with a “Main Clause” and a “Subordinate Clause”)
(Subjunctive is used in the “Subordinate Clause”)

- THERE MUST BE A CHANGE OF SUBJECT TO USE THE SUBJUNCTIVE

Γ - MAIN CLAUSE - ¬  Γ - SUBORDINATE CLAUSE ¬
Yo  quiero  que  Georgia  estudie  español.

S  V  Conj.  S  V  O
(Indicative)  (Subjunctive)

- IF THE SUBJECT DOESN’T CHANGE, THE “INFINITIVE” IS USED

Yo  quiero  estudiar  español

S  V  V  O
(Infinitive)

WHEN TO USE THE SUBJUNCTIVE
The basic rule for knowing when to use the subjunctive is this: Subjunctive implies subjectivity. If there exists the possibility that the action about which I am speaking has not or may not take place, it is necessary to use the subjunctive. Because of the indefinite nature of the subjunctive, it is almost always found in a dependent clause.

* Desire  * Sentiment  * Volition  * Cause  * Demand  * Request  * Doubt  * Denial  * Necessity