



## Spanish grammar

Two of the biggest differences in Spanish grammar are the *leísmo* (read more below) of Spain and the use of *vosotros* ("you" plural) which is the plural of *tú* ("you" singular).

In Latin American *ustedes* is used instead of *vosotros*. "*Ustedes*" is easier for English speakers because the ending of the verb is the same as the one of "*ellos*" (they) so there is less verbs endings to learn. When they learn the "*vosotros*" use, it gets more complicated to memorize another ending of the verbs.

At Spanish Lessons in Surrey we use "*ustedes*" which makes life easier for our English students.

## Spanish leísmo

When it comes to breaking the rules of Spanish, there are probably no rules that are broken more often than those involving third-person object pronouns. The rules are broken so often that there are at least three different names for variations from what's considered proper, and the Spanish Royal Academy (the official arbiter of what is proper Spanish) allows the most common variation from the norm but not others. In general, these are the third-person objective pronouns that are recommended by the Academy and are understood by Spanish speakers everywhere:

	<b>Direct Object</b>	<b>Indirect Object</b>
singular masculine ("him" or "it")	<b>lo</b> ( <i>Lo veo.</i> I see him or I see it.)	<b>le</b> ( <i>Le escribo la carta.</i> I am writing him the letter.)
singular feminine ("her" or "it")	<b>la</b> ( <i>La veo.</i> I see her or I see it.)	<b>le</b> ( <i>Le escribo la carta.</i> I am writing her the letter.)

plural ("them")	masculine	<b>los</b> ( <i>Los veo.</i> I see them.)	<b>les</b> ( <i>Les escribo la carta.</i> I am writing them the letter.)
plural ("them")	feminine	<b>las</b> ( <i>Las veo.</i> I see them.)	<b>les</b> ( <i>Les escribo la carta.</i> I am writing them the letter.)

In addition, the Academy allows the use of **le** as a singular direct object when referring to a male person (but not an object). Thus "I see him" could correctly be translated as either *lo veo* or *le veo*. Substituting *le* for *lo* is known as *leísmo*, and this recognized substitution extremely common and even preferred in parts of Spain.

**Other types of *leísmo*** — While the Academy recognizes *le* as a singular direct object when referring to a male person, that isn't the only type of *leísmo* you may hear. While the use of *les* as a direct object when referring to multiple persons is less common, it also is frequently used and is listed as a regional variation in some grammar texts despite what the Academy may say.

In some areas, *le* may be used to denote respect when used as a direct object, especially when speaking to the person *le* refers to. Thus, one might say *quiero verle a usted* (I want to see you) but *quiero verlo a Roberto* (I want to see Robert), although *-lo* would technically be correct in both instances. In areas where *le* can substitute for *lo* (or even *la*), it frequently sounds more "personal" than the alternative.