

# Studiamo la lingua! 1

## 1 I pronomi indiretti

The words *him, her, it, me, you, us* and *them* are pronouns. When you use one of these as the *object* of a sentence, it is called an *object pronoun*.

**Noi la vediamo ogni giorno.**

We see her every day.

Leo says that he hasn't done his homework:

**Non l'ho fatto.**

Emanuele asks if he can copy Giusy's homework:

**Posso copiarlo?**

**Lo** and **la** are direct object pronouns.

With verbs that are normally followed by **a**, you need to use a different kind of pronoun called an *indirect object pronoun*. For example, Melania suggests that Leo say to the teacher that he's not feeling well:

**Perché non le dici che non ti senti bene?**

A longer way of saying this would be:

**Perché non dici a lei che non ti senti bene?**

The verb **dire** requires **a**, so Melania replaces **a lei** with an indirect object pronoun **le**, meaning *to her*.

Here is a list of some of the verbs that are normally followed by **a**, and therefore require indirect object pronouns.

<b>bastare a</b>	to be enough for
<b>chiedere a</b>	to ask someone
<b>credere a</b>	to believe in
<b>dare a</b>	to give to
<b>dire a</b>	to say to; to tell
<b>fare bene</b>	to be good for
<b>fare male a</b>	to do harm to; to be harmful for
<b>imprestare a</b>	to lend to
<b>insegnare a</b>	to teach (someone) to
<b>interessarsi a</b>	to be interested in
<b>parlare a</b>	to speak to
<b>piacere a</b>	to be pleasing to
<b>rassomigliare a</b>	to resemble
<b>rispondere a</b>	to reply to
<b>scrivere a</b>	to write to
<b>spiegare a</b>	to explain to
<b>stare bene a</b>	to suit
<b>telefonare a</b>	to telephone

Indirect object pronouns are spelled the same as direct object pronouns, except in the third person:

	direct object pronouns		indirect object pronouns	
<b>io</b> →	<b>mi</b>	me	<b>mi</b>	to/for me
<b>tu</b> →	<b>ti</b>	you	<b>ti</b>	to/for you
<b>lui</b> →	<b>lo</b>	him/it	<b>gli</b>	to/for him/it
<b>lei</b> →	<b>la</b>	her/it	<b>le</b>	to/for her/it
<b>Lei</b> →	<b>La</b>	(polite) you	<b>Le</b>	(polite) to you
<b>noi</b> →	<b>ci</b>	us	<b>ci</b>	to/for us
<b>voi</b> →	<b>vi</b>	you	<b>vi</b>	to/for you
<b>loro</b> →	<b>li; le</b>	them	<b>gli/loro</b>	to/for them

You can use either **gli** or **loro** to say *them*. **Gli** is used both in speaking and in writing, and goes in front of the verb, while **loro** is used only in writing, and goes after the verb:

**Gli telefono subito.**

**Telefono loro subito.**

I will phone them straight away.

The past participle does *not* agree with indirect object pronouns, and you cannot change **le** to **l'** or **gli** to **gl'**.

**Ci ha scritto una lettera.**

**Le hai dato un regalo?**

Domenica in Francia  
la 5ª gara delle moto

## 2 Primo, secondo, terzo...

This table of ordinal numbers from 1 to 10 may be helpful:

<b>primo</b>	1°	first	<b>sesto</b>	6°	sixth
<b>secondo</b>	2°	second	<b>settimo</b>	7°	seventh
<b>terzo</b>	3°	third	<b>ottavo</b>	8°	eighth
<b>quarto</b>	4°	fourth	<b>nono</b>	9°	ninth
<b>quinto</b>	5°	fifth	<b>decimo</b>	10°	tenth

Ordinal numbers can change to feminine and/or plural. They can be adjectives or nouns:

**Ecco l'orario per la seconda media superiore.**

Here's the timetable for the second-year class.

**Ad ogni festa sono i primi a ballare.**

At every party, they are the first ones to dance.