

Subject - Verb - Direct Object (or others) - Indirect Object (or others)



The apple is red.



La manzana es roja.

The basic structure is Subject - Verb - Object (SVO) in both English and Spanish. However, the structure is more flexible in Spanish and more rigid in English.



It is John's apple.



Es la manzana de John.

The relationship of possession expressed with "s" in English doesn't exist in Spanish, where you would say "Is the apple of John."



I give John the apple.



Le doy la manzana a John.

The personal pronoun is generally omitted in Spanish, because the conjugation of the verb already tells us who is the subject. In Spanish, it's common to use an indirect object pronoun even though the IO is already present.



We give him the apple.



Le damos la manzana.

The indirect object pronoun always goes after the verb in English, but in Spanish, it generally goes before the verb.



He gives it to John.



Él se la da a John.

In Spanish, when we have an indirect object and a direct object pronoun together, "le" is changed to "se" to avoid confusion.





She gives it to him.



Ella se la da a él.

In English, the pronoun "it" has no gender, but in Spanish, we have a feminine pronoun (la) and a masculine one (lo).

 Does John have an apple?

 ¿John tiene una manzana?

Spanish doesn't use an auxiliary verb for questions, the only thing that changes with respect to an affirmative sentence is the intonation (and the questions marks).

 The apples are red.

 Las manzanas son rojas.

When forming the plural, not only you have to change the noun and the verb like in English, the article and the adjective also change their form.

 Give it to him.

 Dásela a él.

After infinitive, gerund and imperative, the pronouns go attached at the end of the verb.

 I want to give them to her.


 Quiero dárselas a ella.


The direct object pronouns also have a plural form (los, las).

 I'm going to know it tomorrow.

 Lo voy a saber mañana.

When there are constructions with more than one verb, the direct object pronoun (lo, la) can also be located before that construction.

 I can't eat the apple.

 No puedo comerme la manzana.

In Spanish, to form the negative, you just need to put "no" before the verb, and you don't need an auxiliary verb like in English.