

The personal *a* (p. 387)

- You have learned to identify the direct object of a sentence. The direct object tells who or what receives the action of the verb.

Compré un anillo. *I bought a ring.*

Vi una obra de teatro. *I saw a play.*

- When the direct object is a person, a group of people, or a pet, you use *a* in front of the direct object. This use of the personal *a* has no equivalent in English and is not translated.

Vi un video. *I saw a video.*

Vi a mi abuela. *I saw my grandmother.*

Vi a mi perro León. *I saw my dog León.*

A. Underline the direct object in each sentence.

- Vi un video.
- Escribo una carta.
- Visitaron a su familia.
- Comimos una pizza.
- Compraste una corbata.
- Buscamos a nuestro perro.

B. Now, go look at each sentence from part A and write **P** next to those that refer to people or pets.

- Vi un video. _____
- Escribo una carta. _____
- Visitaron a su familia. _____
- Comimos una pizza. _____
- Compraste una corbata. _____
- Buscamos a nuestro perro. _____

C. Look at the sentences above in part B that you labeled with a **P**. Circle the personal *a* in each of those sentences.

D. Look at each sentence. If it requires a personal *a*, circle the *a* in parentheses. If it does not require a personal *a*, cross out the *a* in parentheses.

- Compramos (a) un traje de baño y unos anteojos de sol.
- Yo vi (a) un monumento grande en el parque nacional.
- Escribimos muchas tarjetas (a) nuestros primos.
- Visité (a) mi familia durante las vacaciones.
- Lavaron (a) su perro Fifi.
- Buscamos (a) una tienda de ropa buena.
- Compré (a) un boleto de avión ayer.
- Busqué (a) mi hermano menor en el parque de atracciones.