

A personal

Translate the two sentences below:

- Yo veo una película en el cine. I see a movie at the cinema.

- Yo veo a una amiga en el cine. I see a friend at the cinema.

Notice the second sentence has the word "a" after the verb? ¿Por qué? This is "personal a".

"Personal a" is used when the direct object of the verb is a person (or pet).

Huh???? What is a direct object????

A direct object is who or what receives the action of the verb.

For example: I send an email. Who or what is sent? an email

My friends IM me. Who or what is IM'd? me

Now find the direct object in these Spanish sentences.

- Mi mamá lee un libro en la noche.

What is the action? reading Who or what is 'receiving' it? a book

- Yo cuido a mi hermanito de vez en cuando.

What is the action? taking care of Who or what is 'receiving' it? my little brother

*****One exception.....the verb tener does not take "personal a".*****

Try it! Read the sentences below and fill in the blank with a personal a if one is needed.

Yo toco _____ el clarinete en la banda.

Nosotros hacemos _____ ejercicio todos los días.

Los maestros en mi escuela siempre ayudan a los estudiantes.

Sabrina no tiene _____ un perro en su casa.

