

Indirect Object Pronouns

FRENCH 101

Indirect Object Pronouns

- When an action is directed 'to', or 'at' a person or object, this person or object becomes an indirect object.
 - Il parle à sa femme.
He speaks to his wife.

Indirect Object Pronouns

- When the preposition *à* is followed by *le*, the two merge to form *au*. When followed by *les* the two form *aux*. This is called a contraction.
 - Jacques ressemble au maire.
Jacques looks like the mayor.
 - Il faut parler aux enfants.
One must speak to the children

Indirect Object Pronouns

- The indirect object pronouns are:

- Il me parle.

- Elle te parle.

- Je lui parle.

- Elles nous parlent.

- Il vous parle.

- Je leur parle.

- *He speaks to me.*

- *She speaks to you.*

- *I speak to him/her.*

- *She speaks to us.*

- *He speaks to you. (plural)*

- *I speak to them.*

Indirect Object Pronouns

-*Lui* and *leur* are used if the indirect object is a person. They can identify “to whom” or “for whom” the action is being done.

-*Y* should be used if the indirect object is a noun referring to a place, idea, or thing.

- Examples:
 - Vous répondez à la question.
You respond to the question.
 - Vous y répondez.
You respond to it.
 - Vous répondez à l'enseignant.
You respond to the teacher (male).
 - Vous lui répondez.
You respond to him/her.

Indirect Object Pronouns

En is a pronoun that can replace any phrase of the form “*de/des/du + a thing*”.

- Examples:
 - Je veux des bonbons.
I want candy.
 - J'en veux.
I want some.
 - Je suis française et j'en suis fière.
I am French and I am proud of it.

Extra Note

- When the preposition *de* is followed by *le*, the two merge to form *du*. When followed by *les*, the two form *des*.
- *Example:*
 - Je suis l'homme le plus fort du monde (*m.*).
I'm the strongest man in the world.

Extra Note

- We saw an example above of *y* replacing the phrase “à la question”. *Y* can actually replace most (this doesn’t really work with “avec”, for example) prepositional phrases other than those that begin with *de*.
- Example:
 - Il *y* est.
He is there.
- y here could be replacing a place. i.e: *dans la maison*, en France, sur la table etc.