

Direct Object Pronouns in French

French A2 Grammar · 39 cards



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Rules

What is a direct object?

A noun or noun phrase connected to the verb without a preposition. It often answers “whom?” or “what?”

Je regarde le film. (I'm watching the film.)

« le film » is a direct object.

Je parle à Paul. (I'm talking to Paul.)

« à Paul » is not a direct object because it follows the preposition « à ».

What are the direct object pronouns?

me (me)

te (you, informal)

le (him, it)

la (her, it)

nous (us)

vous (you, formal or plural)

les (them)

Where does a direct object pronoun go in the present tense?

Before the verb, not after it as in English.

Je vends mon vélo. → Je le vends. (I'm selling my bike. → I'm selling it.)

Nous finissons les exercices. → Nous les finissons. (We're finishing the exercises. → We're finishing them.)

How do you choose between « le », « la » and « les »?

Look at the noun you replace: « le » for a masculine singular noun, « la » for a feminine singular noun, « les » for any plural noun. They replace people and things.

Elle prépare le dîner. → Elle le prépare. (She's making dinner. → She's making it.)

Tu choisis la robe rouge ? → Tu la choisis ? (Are you choosing the red dress? → Are you choosing it?)

Je mets mes chaussures. → Je les mets. (I'm putting on my shoes. → I'm putting them on.)

When do you use « en » instead of « le », « la » or « les »?

« le, la, les » replace one specific thing, the one you are talking about.

« en » replaces an amount: some, any, one, two... If there is a number, it stays.

Tu as la clé de la voiture ? → Oui, je l'ai. (Do you have the car key? → Yes, I have it.)

Tu as une voiture ? → Oui, j'en ai une. (Do you have a car? → Yes, I have one.)

Tu veux du café ? → Oui, j'en veux. (Do you want some coffee? → Yes, I want some.)

What do « me », « te », « le » and « la » become before a vowel or a silent h?

m', t', l'

Il m'appelle. Je t'aime. Je l'adore. (He calls me. I love you. I love it.)

« nous », « vous » and « les » don't change: Je les adore. (I love them.)

How do you say “to wait for someone” in French?

attendre quelqu'un

No preposition: the object comes straight after the verb, so you use le, la or les.

J'attends ma sœur. → Je l'attends. (I'm waiting for my sister. → I'm waiting for her.)

How do you say “to look for something” in French?

chercher quelque chose

No preposition: the object comes straight after the verb, so you use le, la or les.

Il cherche ses lunettes. → Il les cherche. (He's looking for his glasses. → He's looking for them.)

How do you say “to listen to someone” in French?

écouter quelqu'un

No preposition: the object comes straight after the verb, so you use le, la or les.

Tu écoutes le professeur ? → Tu l'écoutes ? (Are you listening to the teacher? → Are you listening to him?)

How do you say “to look at something” in French?

regarder quelque chose

No preposition: the object comes straight after the verb, so you use le, la or les.

Nous regardons le ciel. → Nous le regardons. (We're looking at the sky. → We're looking at it.)

What do « me », « te », « nous » and « vous » replace?

The people speaking or being spoken to. Like « le, la, les », they go before the verb.

Marc m'aide. (Marc helps me.)

Je vous attends devant la gare. (I'm waiting for you in front of the station.)

Where do « ne » and « pas » go with a direct object pronoun?

Around the pronoun and the verb together.

subject + ne + pronoun + verb + pas

Je ne la trouve pas. Elle ne nous attend pas. (I can't find it. She isn't waiting for us.)

Exercises

Write your answer on the line. The answers are at the end.

1. Replace the object with a pronoun: Elle regarde la télé.

2. Replace the object with a pronoun: Nous cherchons nos billets.

3. Replace the object with a pronoun: Il lave la voiture.

4. Replace the object with a pronoun: Tu connais mon cousin ?

5. Replace the object with a pronoun: Il paie l'addition.

6. Replace the object with a pronoun: Ils invitent leurs amis.

7. Replace the object with a pronoun: Je ferme la fenêtre.

8. Replace the object with a pronoun: Tu vois la mer ?

9. Replace the object with a pronoun: J'écoute la radio.

10. Complete with a pronoun (Paul is inviting me): Paul ____ invite à dîner.

11. Replace the object with a pronoun: Elle aide son frère.

12. Complete with a pronoun (I can hear you well): Je ____ entends bien.

13. Replace the object with a pronoun: Il achète l'ordinateur.

14. Replace the object with a pronoun: Nous attendons le bus.

15. Replace the object with a pronoun: Je cherche mon portable.

16. Replace the object with a pronoun: Elle écoute ses parents.

17. Replace the object with a pronoun: Ils regardent les photos.

18. Answer with « oui » and a pronoun: Tu me vois ?

19. Answer with « oui » and a pronoun: Il te connaît ?

20. Answer with « oui » and a pronoun: Tu m'écoutes ?

21. Answer with « oui » and a pronoun: Tes parents vous invitent ce week-end ?

22. Answer with « oui » and a pronoun: Tu nous appelles demain ?

23. Make negative: Je la connais.

24. Answer with « non » and a pronoun: Tu regardes le match ?

25. Make negative: Il m'écoute.

26. Answer with « non » and a pronoun: Elle aime ses voisins ?

27. Answer with « non » and a pronoun: Tu prends le train ?



Answer key

1. Elle la regarde.
(She's watching TV. → She's watching it.)
2. Nous les cherchons.
(We're looking for our tickets. → We're looking for them.)
3. Il la lave.
(He's washing the car. → He's washing it.)
4. Tu le connais ?
(Do you know my cousin? → Do you know him?)
5. Il la paie.
(He's paying the bill. → He's paying it.)
6. Ils les invitent.
(They're inviting their friends. → They're inviting them.)
7. Je la ferme.
(I'm closing the window. → I'm closing it.)
8. Tu la vois ?
(Can you see the sea? → Can you see it?)
9. Je l'écoute.
(I'm listening to the radio. → I'm listening to it.)
10. Paul m'invite à dîner.
11. Elle l'aide.
(She helps her brother. → She helps him.)
12. Je t'entends bien.
13. Il l'achète.
(He's buying the computer. → He's buying it.)
14. Nous l'attendons.
(We're waiting for the bus. → We're waiting for it.)
15. Je le cherche.
(I'm looking for my phone. → I'm looking for it.)
16. Elle les écoute.
(She listens to her parents. → She listens to them.)
17. Ils les regardent.
(They're looking at the photos. → They're looking at them.)
18. Oui, je te vois.
(Can you see me? → Yes, I can see you.)
19. Oui, il me connaît.
(Does he know you? → Yes, he knows me.)
20. Oui, je t'écoute.
(Are you listening to me? → Yes, I'm listening to you.)
21. Oui, ils nous invitent ce week-end.
(Are your parents inviting you this weekend? → Yes, they're inviting us this weekend.)
22. Oui, je vous appelle demain.
(Are you calling us tomorrow? → Yes, I'm calling you tomorrow.)

23. Je ne la connais pas.

(I know her. → I don't know her.)

24. Non, je ne le regarde pas.

(Are you watching the match? → No, I'm not watching it.)

25. Il ne m'écoute pas.

(He listens to me. → He doesn't listen to me.)

26. Non, elle ne les aime pas.

(Does she like her neighbours? → No, she doesn't like them.)

27. Non, je ne le prends pas.

(Are you taking the train? → No, I'm not taking it.)

