DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS
Twentieth lesson – Vingtième leçon.
CONTENTS

Introduction
1. Forms
   1.1 When preceding a word starting with a vowel
2. Position
   2.1. In the present tense.
   2.2. In the passé composé.
   2.3. In the imperative tense.
3. Negative sentences
   3.1. In the present tense.
   3.2. In the past tense.
   3.3. In the imperative tense.
4. Past participle agreements
   4.1. With a preceding direct object.
   4.2. If the pronoun is masculine plural.
   4.3. If the pronoun is feminine plural.
A direct object is a noun following the verb that answers the questions what (*quoi*)? or whom (*qui*)?

- Paul voit Marie tous les jours.
- Paul sees Marie every day.
- Whom does Paul see?
  - Marie
**Introduction**

- In the sentence in the previous example:
  - *Marie* is the **direct object** and the direct object pronoun that replaces *Marie* is *la*.

  - *Paul* *la* *voit*.
  - *Paul sees her.*
Introduction

- Note that “le” (l’) can replace adjectives in sentences such as:
  - *Est-ce que Marie est belle?*
    - *Oui, elle l’est.*
    - *Is Marie beautiful? Yes, she is.*
  - *Paul et Marie sont français?*
    - *Oui, ils le sont.*
    - *Are Paul and Marie French? Yes, they are.*
**Forms**

- Me (m’)
- Te (t’)
- Le (l’)
- La (l’)
- Nous
- Vous
- Les
- Me
- You
- Him/it
- Her/it
- Us
- You
- Them
FORMS

1.1. When preceding a word starting with a vowel.

- le and la become l'
  - me becomes m'
  - te becomes t'.
Forms

• **J’appelle ma mère.** ➔ **Je l’appelle.**
  • I call my mother. ➔ I call her.

• **J’appelle mon père.** ➔ **Je l’appelle.**
  • I call my father. ➔ I call him.

• - **Tu m’aimes?** (pronoun=me)
  • - **Oui, je t’aime.** (pronoun=te)
    • - Do you love me? - Yes, I love you.
2.1. In the **present tense**, the direct object is placed just **before** the **verb**.

- *Paul voit Marie.*
- Paul la voit.
- *Paul sees Marie.* Paul sees her.
2.2. In a compound tense (as in the passé composé), the pronoun precedes the auxiliary.

- *As-tu vu tes parents?*
- *Oui, je les ai vus hier.*

*Did you see your parents? Yes, I saw them yesterday.*
2.3. In the affirmative imperative, the direct object pronoun follows the verb and is attached to it by a hyphen.

- Appelles tes parents!
- → Appelle-les!
- Call your parents! → Call them!
NEGATIVE SENTENCES

3.1. In negative sentences in the present tense, ne precedes the object pronoun and pas follows the conjugated verb:

- Paul et Marie sont heureux?
- Non, ils ne le sont pas.
- Are Paul and Marie happy? - No, they aren’t.
NEGATIVE SENTENCES

3.2. In negative sentences in the past with compound tenses:

- **ne** precedes the direct object pronoun

- **pas** is placed between the auxiliary verb and the past participle of the main verb.
NEGATIVE SENTENCES

• *As-tu appelé tes parents hier?*
• *Non, je ne les ai pas appelés hier.*
  • Did you call your parents yesterday?
  • No, I didn’t call them yesterday.
3.3. In the **negative imperative mood:**

- The pronoun is placed before the verb
- **Ne** at the beginning of the sentence and **pas** at the end.

- **Ne les appelle pas!**
  - *Don’t call them!*
**Negative sentences**

- *Me* and *te* become *m'* and *t'*, respectively, when preceding a word starting with a vowel:
  
  - *Ne m’appele(z) pas!*
    - *Don’t call me!*
NEGATIVE SENTENCES

- Note that me and te retain their form if the word starts with a consonant:

  - *Regarde(z)-moi!*
  - ➔ *Ne me regarde(z) pas!*
  - *Look at me. ➔ Don’t look at me.*
 AGREEMENT OF THE PAST PARTICIPLE

4.1. The past participle agrees in gender and number with a preceding direct object.

- If the direct object pronoun is feminine, add an -e to the end of the past participle.
**Agreement of the Past Participle**

- *Vous avez appelé votre amie?*
- *Oui, nous l’avons appelée dimanche.*
  - *Did you call your friends?*
  - *Yes, we called her on Sunday.*
AGREEMENT OF THE PAST PARTICIPLE

4.2. If the pronoun is masculine plural.

- If the pronoun is masculine plural, add an -s (unless the past participle already ends in s):
AGREEMENT OF THE PAST PARTICIPLE

- Vous avez appelé vos amis?
- Oui, nous les avons appelés dimanche.
  - Did you call your friends?
  - Yes, we called them on Sunday.
AGREEMENT OF THE PAST PARTICIPLE

4.3. If the pronoun is feminine plural, add -es.

- Vous avez appelé vos amies?
- Oui, je les ai appelées samedi soir.
  • Did you call your friends?
  • Yes, I called them on Saturday night.
C’est tout pour aujourd’hui!

Au revoir!

Merci!