

1. forms and uses
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A direct object is a noun following the verb that answers the questions 'what?' or 'whom?' Remember a pronoun replaces a noun, and in this case the noun is a direct object. For example, Tammy might ask: 'Tex, will you kiss **me** tonight?', where the direct object pronoun 'me' stands for Tammy. Whether a verb takes a direct object or not depends on whether the specific verb is [transitive](#) or [intransitive](#).

forms and uses



direct object pronouns	
me , me	nous , we/us
te , you	vous , you
le , him/it la , her/it	les , them (masc./fem.)

In front of a word starting with a vowel, **le** and **la** become **l'**; **me** becomes **m'**; **te** becomes **t'**.



Tammy: Dis, tu **m'**appelles ce soir, Tex?

Tex: Oui, ma belle, je **t'**appelle ce soir.

Corey: Edouard et moi, tu **nous** appelles ce soir, Tex?

Tex: Non, je ne **vous** appelle pas ce soir.

Joe-Bob: Moi, je peux **les** appeler ce soir!

Tammy: Say, will you call me tonight, Tex?

Tex: Yes, beautiful, I will call you tonight.

Corey: Edouard and me, will you call us tonight, Tex?

Tex: No, I will not call you guys tonight.

Joe-Bob: I can call them tonight!

Direct object pronouns in French agree in number and gender with the nouns they replace.



Tex cherche le numéro de téléphone de Tammy. Enfin il **le** trouve et il **l'**appelle.

Joe-Bob cherche les numéros d'Edouard et de Corey. Enfin il **les** trouve et il **les** appelle.

Tex looks for Tammy's phone number. Finally he finds **it** and he calls **her**.

Joe-Bob looks for Edouard and Corey's phone numbers. Finally he finds **them** and he calls **them**.

Note that **le/l'** can replace an adjective or a verb.

Tex et Tammy sont amoureux? Oui, ils **le** sont.

Tex est quelquefois jaloux? Oui, il **l'**est.

Joe-Bob: Tu veux que j'appelle Tammy?

Tex: Non, moi, je vais **le** faire.

Tex and Tammy are in love? Yes, they are.

Tex is sometimes jealous? Yes, he is.


Joe-Bob: Do you want me to call Tammy?

Tex: No, I'll do it.

placement


Direct object pronouns precede the verb of which they are the object. In a composed tense (like the *passé composé*), the pronoun precedes the auxiliary. In infinitive constructions, the pronoun goes immediately before the infinitive. When the

conjugated verb is negative, the **ne** precedes the object pronoun.

-  Tammy: Tex **m'**aime. Tammy: Tex loves me.
Bette: Tex **ne t'**aime **pas**. Bette: Tex does not love you.
Tammy: Tex va **m'**épouser. Tammy: Tex is going to marry me.
Bette: Sois raisonnable, Tammy. Tex ne veut pas **t'**épouser. Bette: Be reasonable, Tammy. Tex doesn't want to marry you.
Tammy: Mais si. Il l'a promis quand je **l'**ai rencontré à Lyon. Tammy: Yes he does. He promised when I met him in Lyon.
Bette: Mais il **ne m'**avait pas encore rencontré! Bette: But he hadn't yet met me!



In the negative imperative, the pronoun follows the normal placement before the verb. However, in the affirmative imperative, the object pronoun goes after the verb and is attached to it by a hyphen. In addition, **me** and **te** become **moi** and **toi**.

-  Bette: Tex, embrasse-**moi**! Bette: Tex, kiss me!
Joe-Bob: Attends, ne **l'**embrasse pas devant moi. Je m'en vais. Joe-Bob: Wait, don't kiss her in front of me. I'm leaving.
Bette: Eh bien, il est parti. SMACK! Bette: Eh bien, he's left. SMACK!

agreement of the past participle

The past participle agrees in gender and in number with a preceding direct object. In other words, if the direct object pronoun is feminine, add an **e** to the end of the past participle; if the pronoun is masculine plural, add an **s** (unless the past participle already ends in **s**); if it is feminine plural, add **es**.

-  Un peu plus tard ... A little later ...
Bette: Tammy? Tu sais, Tex **m'a** embrassé**e**. Bette: Tammy? Tex kissed me.
Tammy: Ce n'est pas vrai! Tammy: That's not true.
Bette: Demande-lui. Il arrive. Bette: Ask him. Here he comes.
Tammy: Tex, tu **l'**as embrassé**e**, Bette? Tammy: Tex, did you kiss her, Bette?
Tex: Qui? Bette? Mais non. Je ne **l'**ai pas embrassé**e**. C'est elle qui **m'a** embrassé! Tex: Who? Bette? Why no. I didn't kiss her. She kissed me! POW! Ow!
PAF! Aie!



Exercices

fill in the blanks

Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in capital letters with a correct direct object pronoun: le, la, les. Modèle: Tammy cherche TEX. Tammy le cherche.

1. Joe-Bob adore LES FEUX D'ARTIFICE.
2. Tex drague BETTE. (drague = hits on, flirts with)
3. Bette a embrassé TEX.

4. Joe-Bob ne finit pas SES DEVOIRS.
5. Edouard n'aime pas attendre LE BUS.
6. Tammy a invité SES AMIS à dîner.
7. Tex cherche TAMMY.
8. Joe-Bob regarde LA TELEVISION.
9. Tammy va chanter LA MARSEILLAISE.
10. Les étudiants de Tex ont appris LEURS VERBES.
11. Tammy va fêter LA SAINT-SYLVESTRE.
12. Fiona a étudié L'ESPAGNOL.