Direct object pronouns

In English Direct object pronouns refer to someone or something that receives the action of the verb. They replace direct object nouns to avoid repetition. Direct object pronouns are placed after the verb.

English object pronouns that replace things are it and them. Object pronouns that can refer to people are him, her, you, me, us, and them.

I saw that film and I enjoyed it immensely.
Mom took Peter to school. She picked him up later.
They were not using their mountain bikes so they sold them.

A  Circle the direct object pronoun and underline the noun it refers to.

1. Finish your homework now and hand it in tomorrow
2. I bought an apple for later, but I ate it immediately.
3. If you don’t know Russell, let me introduce him to you!
4. I heard a lot about your brothers, but I never met them.
5. I wanted to see two movies, but my friend had already seen them.
6. Did you phone Grandmother or did you email her?
7. Do you like these flowers? I bought them for my mom.
8. I sent you my first novel. You never read it, did you?

In French Direct object pronouns can also be used to avoid repeating direct object nouns that have already been mentioned.
—Tu aimes le sirop de menthe?
—Pas du tout. Je le déteste.

The direct object pronouns are as follows:

me (me)  nous (us)
te (you)  vous (you)
le/la (him/her, it)  les (them)

In the present tense, direct object pronouns go before the conjugated verb. If there is an infinitive, they go before the infinitive. Note that before a verb beginning with a vowel sound, me, te, le, and la change to m', t', and l'.

Je vous invite tous chez moi.
Le film est bon et ils veulent le regarder.
Ma grand-mère m'aime beaucoup.
Je l'ai cherché, mais je ne l'ai pas trouvé.
DIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

B Circle the direct object pronoun and underline the noun it refers to.
1. Elle essaye les robes et les achète.
2. La jupe est horrible. Elle ne la prend pas.
3. Est-ce que vous montez les lits ou les descendez?
4. Marcel, je te souhaite bon anniversaire!
5. Monsieur et Madame Langlois, je vous invite chez moi.
6. J'adore les feux d'artifice et je vais les voir cette année.
7. Cette carte est belle. Tu veux l'envoyer?

C Write answers to the following questions. Use an appropriate pronoun to avoid repeating the underlined words in each answer.
1. Tu aimes les tartes aux pommes?
   Non, je ne les aime pas.
2. Tu prends le bus pour aller à l'école?
3. Est-ce que tu invites tes professeurs à tes fêtes?
4. Achètes-tu souvent ces magazines?
5. Tu attends ta copine?
6. Qui fait la vaisselle chez toi?

D Compare the following sentences. In your own words, explain the placement of ne... pas in sentences that contain direct object pronouns.

Je ne le prends pas. Je ne vais pas le prendre.
Indirect objects

In English An indirect object is the person to whom or for whom something is done. The indirect object noun can either go before or after the direct object. However, when it follows the direct object, the preposition to must be used.

My parents gave my cousin a gift.
My parents gave a gift to my cousin.

You can ask yourself to whom or for whom the action occurs in order to determine what the indirect object is. Verbs such as to send, to show, and to give often have indirect objects.

I sent my uncle a thank you note.
(To whom did I send a thank you note? To my uncle.)

A Circle the indirect objects in the following sentences.

1. I wrote my best friend many e-mails while I was away.
2. Who sent that package to you?
3. I brought my grandmother a bouquet of daisies.
4. My parents bought my brother and me a new computer!
5. Let's write our congresswoman a letter.
6. We gave the dog a big, juicy bone.

In French An indirect object is also the person who benefits from the action of the verb. It is almost always preceded by the preposition à. Indirect objects are often used with verbs of giving and receiving (donner, offrir, envoyer) and of communicating (parler, téléphoner, dire).

Je vais envoyer une invitation à ton cousin.
J'écris à Agnès.
Les élèves parlent au professeur.

B Circle the indirect objects in the following sentences.

1. Tu peux offrir un CD à Sophie.
2. Je dois téléphoner à mes parents.
3. Est-ce que vous pouvez donner ce livre à Jean-Luc?
4. Le prof d'histoire va rendre les devoirs aux élèves.
5. Nous pouvons parler à Mylène et à François à la fête.
6. Ma tante offre toujours des chocolats aux enfants.
C Rewrite the following scrambled sentences so the words are in the correct order. Then circle the indirect object in each sentence.

1. Nous / des cadeaux / à / donnons / nos amis
   **Nous donnons des cadeaux à nos amis.**

2. J' / une carte de vœux / écris / à / mes grands-parents

3. Les Hébert / aux / leur maison / Martin / vendent

4. Notre chien / le journal / apporte / aux filles

5. Je / mon père / vais / de l'argent / à / demander

6. J'offre / à / mon / un ballon / petit ami

7. Tu / une invitation / Perrault / n'envoies / pas / aux

D Compare the following sentences. What can you conclude about English and French verbs that take direct and indirect objects?

Il répond à la lettre. \( \text{He answers the letter.} \)
Il téléphone à Alice. \( \text{He phones Alice.} \)
Elle demande toujours à Marc. \( \text{She always asks Marc.} \)
Indirect object pronouns

In English An indirect object noun can be replaced by an indirect object pronoun. In English, these are me, you, him, her, us, you (plural), and them.

My grandmother told me that story years ago.
I gave your books to them.

When both direct and indirect objects are expressed as pronouns in the same sentence, the indirect object pronoun goes after to or for.

Rachel sent it to her.
He’s preparing it for you.

A Underline the indirect object pronoun in each sentence.

1. Who gave me this present?
2. He did not know her, but offered it to her anyway.
3. Why did you give him a small tip?
4. Who writes you so many letters?
5. Frank gave it to us last week.
6. She explained everything to me.
7. Could you leave the lights on for them?

In French Indirect object pronouns are also used to avoid repeating the noun. They are placed before the conjugated verb or before an infinitive.

me (mi) (to/for me)   nous (to/for us)
tu (t‘) (to/for you)   vous (to/for you, formal, plural)
il (to/for him/her)   leur (to/for them)

Alors, je vous envoie une invitation à ma fête.
Il va lui offrir des fleurs.

If you have a sentence with both direct and indirect object pronouns, place the pronouns in the following order.

me  

tu  
nous

before

le

la

l‘

les

before

lui

leur

J‘envoie cette carte à mon ami. ➔ Je la lui envoie.
Je te donne son numéro de téléphone. ➔ Je te le donne.
INDIRECT OBJECT PRONOUNS

B Underline the indirect object pronoun in each sentence.
1. Nous allons te l'acheter.
2. Je ne lui prête pas mes choses.
3. Il vous a dit tout, n’est-ce pas?
4. Son père va la lui prêter.
5. Est-ce que vous allez nous le vendre?
6. Gilles ne veut pas me le montrer.
7. Tu vas la leur envoyer?

C Complete the following sentences with the correct indirect object pronouns.
1. —Qu’est-ce que je dois faire pour M. Pelletier?
   —Tu dois _____ lui _______ écrire une lettre.
2. —Tu poses souvent des questions aux professeurs?
   —Non, je _______ _______ pose rarement des questions.
3. —Quand est-ce que tu vas nous montrer les photos?
   —Je vais _______ _______ les montrer demain.
4. —Vas-tu acheter un CD à Simone?
   —Oui, je vais _______ _______ acheter celui-ci.

D Write the answer to each question using a direct and an indirect object pronoun.
1. Qui nous envoie cette lettre? (Grégoire)
   Grégoire nous l’envoie.

2. Qui m’écris les e-mails? (Lorraine)

3. Qui nous rend les livres? (Sylvie et Maude)

4. Qui va t’acheter la voiture? (mon grand-père)

5. Qui donne ce cadeau à Bruno? (sa tante)

6. Qui va prêter les bicyclettes aux garçons? (M. Dupuy)