

Indirect Object Pronouns

The indirect object is the person or living thing to whom the action of the verb is done. The indirect object answers the question “to whom” or “for whom.”

In the sentence **Marc telephone à Jérôme**, **Jérôme** is the indirect object of the verb **telephone**. Note that the preposition **à** is used before the indirect object.

As in English, the indirect object may be replaced by a pronoun. **Me, te, nous** and **vous** are used as **indirect** object pronouns (**to me, to you, to us, to you**) as well as direct object pronouns (me, you, us, you). The indirect object pronoun **lui** replaces **à and one person or living thing**; **leur** replaces **à and more than one of them**.

Singular	lui	=	to him, to her	<i>Remember:</i>
Plural	leur	=	to them	à + le = au à + les = aux

Vous parlez à l'artiste ?	Are you talking to the artist?
Oui, je lui parle de ses peintures.	Yes, I'm talking to him about his paintings.
Tu montres la carte à tes élèves ?	Are you showing the map to your students?
Oui, je leur montre la carte.	Yes, I'm showing (to) them the map.

Pronoun placement: The indirect object pronouns usually go right before the verb. If the verb is followed by an infinitive, it goes before the infinitive.

Affirmative: Elle **lui** écrit aujourd'hui. She is writing **(to) him** today.

Negative: Il ne **me** parle pas. He is not talking **to me**.

Question: Quand **leur** téléphone-t-il? When is he calling **them**?

With an infinitive: Il va vous dire « non. » He is going to tell you “no.”

In the **passé composé**, indirect object pronouns come *before* the helping, or conjugated verb. The past participle does not agree with **lui** and **leur**.

Tu as rendu visite **à tes grands-parents** hier ? Non, je ne **leur** ai pas rendu visite hier.

*When there are **both a direct and indirect object pronoun** in a sentence, the

pronoun order is:	me		le		lui
	te	<i>before</i>	la	<i>before</i>	leur
	nous		les		
	vous				

Elle donne la glace aux enfants. Elle la leur donne. She gives it to them.

Ton père t'a donné les clés ? Oui, il me les a données. Yes, he gave me them.

Tu vas offrir le cadeau à Claire ? Oui, je vais le lui offrir. Yes, I am going to give her it.