

# French object pronouns: DOP vs IOP

Direct object = answers who? or what? with no preposition. Indirect object = the person the action is done to or for, introduced by à. Only the third person differs.

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## The two tables

| Person     | Direct (DOP) | Indirect (IOP)     |
|------------|--------------|--------------------|
| me         | me (m')      | me (m')            |
| you (tu)   | te (t')      | te (t')            |
| him / it   | le (l')      | lui                |
| her / it   | la (l')      | lui                |
| us         | nous         | nous               |
| you (vous) | vous         | vous               |
| them       | les          | leur (never leurs) |

## Verbs that take à (lui / leur) and direct verbs that fool English speakers

| French verb takes à                                       | French verb is direct                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| téléphoner à, parler à, répondre à, demander à            | regarder (look at), écouter (listen to)          |
| dire à, écrire à, donner à, offrir à, envoyer à, prêter à | chercher (look for), attendre (wait for)         |
| plaire à, manquer à, ressembler à, obéir à                | payer (pay for), habiter (live in), aider (help) |

## Placement and order

| Case              | Rule                                                           | Example                         |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Simple tense      | before the verb                                                | Je le vois. Tu lui parles.      |
| Passé composé     | before the helper; DOP before avoir makes the participle agree | Je l'ai vue. Il leur a écrit.   |
| Negative          | ne + pronoun + verb + pas                                      | Je ne le vois pas.              |
| Verb + infinitive | before the infinitive                                          | Je vais le voir.                |
| Positive command  | after the verb with a hyphen; me/te become moi/toi             | Regarde-le ! Aide-moi !         |
| Two pronouns      | me te se nous vous > le la les > lui leur > y > en             | Je le lui donne. Il me l'a dit. |

Full notes: [sciencewithshobha.com/blog/dop-vs-iop-french-direct-and-indirect-object-pronouns/](https://sciencewithshobha.com/blog/dop-vs-iop-french-direct-and-indirect-object-pronouns/)