**Y** refers to a previously mentioned or implied place; it is normally translated by "there" in English. **Y** usually replaces a phrase beginning with something like *à*, *chez*, or *dans*.  
  
   Are you going to the bank today? No, I'm going (there) tomorrow.  
   *Tu vas à la banque aujourd'hui ? Non, j'y vais demain.*  
  
   We're going to the store. Do you want to go (there)?  
   *Nous allons au magasin. Tu veux y aller ?*  
  
**Y** can also replace *à* + a [noun](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/nouns.htm) that is not a person,\* such as with [verbs that need à](http://french.about.com/library/prepositions/bl_prep_a_verb2.htm). Note that in French, you must include either *à* + something or its replacement **y**, even though the equivalent may be optional in English. You cannot replace the noun with an object pronoun.  
  
   I'm responding to a letter. I'm responding (to it).  
   *Je réponds à une lettre. J'y réponds.*  
     
   He's thinking about our trip. He's thinking about it.  
   *Il pense à notre voyage. Il y pense.*  
     
   You have to obey the law. You have to obey it.  
   *Tu dois obéir à la loi. Tu dois y obéir.*  
     
   Yes, I attended the meeting. Yes, I attended (it).  
   *Oui, j'ai assisté à la réunion. Oui, j'y ai assisté.*  
     
   I'm going to think about your proposal. I'm going to think about it.  
   *Je vais réfléchir à votre proposition. Je vais y réfléchir.*

Indirect objects are the people or things in a sentence **to** or **for whom/what**\* the action of the verb occurs.  
  
   Je parle à **Pierre**. **To whom** am I talking? **To Pierre**.  
  
   Il achète des livres pour **les étudiants**. **For whom** does he buy books? - **For the students**.  
  
Indirect object pronouns are the words that **replace** the indirect object, and in French they can only refer to a **person** or other **animate noun**.(1) The French indirect object pronouns are  
  
   **me** / **m'**   me  
   **te** / **t'**   you  
   **lui**   him, her  
   **nous**   us  
   **vous**   you  
   **leur**   them  
  
*Me* and *te* change to *m'* and *t'*, respectively, in front of a vowel or [mute H](http://french.about.com/od/pronunciation/a/h_2.htm).  
  
French indirect object pronouns are usually(2) placed **in front of the verb**.  
  
   I'm talking **to him**.    Je **lui** parle.  
   He buys books **for them**.    Il **leur** achète des livres.  
   I'm giving the bread **to you**.    Je **vous** donne le pain.  
   She wrote **to me**.    Elle **m'**a écrit.  
  
**Notes**: When deciding between direct and indirect objects, the general rule is that if the person or thing is preceded by *à* or *pour*, that person/thing is an indirect object.