



THE PRONOUNS Y & EN

Twenty-first lesson – Vingt-et-unième leçon

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1. DEFINITION

- The French pronouns **y** and **en** have different functions.
- This lesson summarizes the main instances of their uses as grammatical particles that replace something to avoid repetitions.
- Their usage is compulsory.



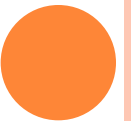
2. THE PRONOUN Y

- Use **y** to replace a noun introduced by the preposition **à** (complement of the verb) if the noun does not stand for a person or animal.



2. THE PRONOUN Y

- There are three basic types of complements that are introduced by à:



2. THE PRONOUN Y

2.1. A thing or a concept

- *-Jouez-vous au* tennis?*
- *-Oui, j'y joue tous les mardis.*
 - *Do you play tennis?*
 - *Yes, I play every Tuesdays.*

- * Remember **au** = **à** + **le**



2. THE PRONOUN Y

2.2. A concept or an idea.

- – *Est-ce que tu t'intéresses à la mondialisation?*
 - – *Oui, je m'y intéresse beaucoup.*
 - *Does mondialisation interest you?*
 - *Yes, it does interest me.*
- – *Penses-tu à quitter ton emploi?*
 - – *Oui, j'y pense souvent.*
 - *Do you think about leaving your your job?*
 - *Yes, I do think about it often.*



2. THE PRONOUN Y

2.3. A place

- In this case, **y** replaces nouns that are introduced by prepositions such as **à**, **chez**, **en**, **sur** etc.:

- – *Est-ce que votre mère vit à Durban?*
 - – *Oui, elle y vit.*
 - *Does your mother live in Durban?*
 - *-Yes she lives there.*



2. THE PRONOUN Y

- – *Est-ce que tu vas **chez le dentiste** ce matin?*
 - – *Non, j'y vais demain.*
- *Are you going to the dentist this morning?*
 - *No, I am going tomorrow.*



2. THE PRONOUN Y

- – *Voudrais-tu aller **en France**?*
- – *Oui, je voudrais bien **y** aller.*
- *Would you like to go to France?*
 - *Yes, I would like to.*



2. THE PRONOUN Y

- **Note:** if the preposition **à** introduces a person, there are two ways of replacing this type of complement:



2. THE PRONOUN Y

i) using the indirect pronouns **me, te, lui, se, nous, vous, and leur.**

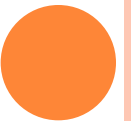
- – *Parles-tu à Pierrick?*
– *Oui, je lui parle. / Non, je ne lui parle pas.*

- -*Do you speak to Pierrick?*
 - *Yes, I do. / No, I don't.*



2. THE PRONOUN Y

ii) using the emphatic pronouns **moi, toi, lui, elle, soi, nous, vous, elles,** and **eux** introduced by the preposition **à**



2. THE PRONOUN Y

- With verbs like **penser à** (*to think of*), **songer à** (*to dream of, to think of*), **tenir à** (*to care for, to be fond of*)
 - – *Penses-tu à moi?*
 - – *Oui! Je pense très souvent à toi!*
 - *Do you think about me?*
 - *Yes! I do think about you very often.*



2. THE PRONOUN Y

- And all the pronominal verbs that are followed by **à**, such as **s'adresser à** (*to address somebody*).
- – *Est-ce que tu t'adresses poliment à tes parents?*
 - – *Oui, je m'adressons à eux très poliment.*
 - *Do you speak to your parents politely?*
 - *Yes, we do speak to them very politely.*



3. THE PRONOUN Y

Vocabulary

- **Penser à**
 - **Réfléchir à**
 - **S'intéresser à**
 - **Répondre à**
 - **Participer à**
- *to think about*
 - *to reflect / ponder on*
 - *to be interested in*
 - *to answer to*
 - *to participate in*



3. THE PRONOUN EN

- **En** is used to replace a noun introduced by the preposition **de** (complement of the verb), if the noun does not refer to anything animate.



3. THE PRONOUN EN

- As with **y**, there are three basic types of complements that are introduced by **de**:



3. THE PRONOUN EN

3.1. An object or a concept

- – *Est-ce que je t'ai parlé **de mes vacances**?*
 - – *Oui, tu m'**en** as parlé.*
- *Have I told you about my holidays.*
- *Yes, you did talked about them.*



3. THE PRONOUN EN

- – *Tu te souviens de notre première rencontre?*
 - – *Oui, je m'en souviens.*
- *Do you remember when we first met?*
 - *Yes, I do remember.*



3. THE PRONOUN EN

3.2. A place

- – *Tu pars en France, n'est-ce pas?*
 - – *Non, j'en reviens.*
 - *You are going to France, aren't you?*
 - *No, I am coming back from France.*

- Note that in the sentence above **en** replaces *revenir de France...*



3. THE PRONOUN EN

3.3. A whole proposition

- – *C'est l'anniversaire de ta mère?*
- *As-tu envie **de lui faire une surprise?***
 - – *Oui, j'en ai envie.*
 - *Is it your mother birthday?*
 - *Do you want to make a surprise for her?*
 - *Yes, I would like to.*



3. THE PRONOUN EN

- **Note** that if the preposition **de** introduces a person, we use **de** followed by the emphatic pronouns **moi, toi, lui, elle, soi, nous, vous, elles,** and **eux**:



3. THE PRONOUN EN

- – *Est-ce que je t'ai parlé **de mon petit ami**?*
- – *Non, tu ne m'as pas encore parlé **de lui**.*
 - *Have I told you about my boyfriend?*
 - *No, you haven't spoken about him yet.*



3. THE PRONOUN EN

- – *Est-ce que tu te souviens de mes amis sud-africains?*
 - – *Oui, je me souviens d'eux.*
- *Do you remember my South African friends?*
 - *Yes, I remember them.*



3. THE PRONOUN EN

i) **en** replaces a noun preceded by a partitive article (**du, de la, de l', des**)

- – *Est-ce que nous avons **du pain**?*
- – *Oui, nous **en** avons. / Non, nous **n'en** avons pas.*
 - – *Do we have (some) bread?*
 - – *Yes, we have some. / No, we don't have any.*



3. THE PRONOUN EN

ii) **en** replaces a noun preceded by a number or word of quantity (**beaucoup de, trop de, assez de** etc.).

- The indefinite articles **un** and **une** also count as numbers here.
- In this case **we must keep** the number or quantity word.



3. THE PRONOUN EN

- – *Est-ce que tu as une robe de soirée?*
 - – *Oui, j'en ai une.*
- *Do you have a cocktail dress?*
 - *Yes, I do have one.*



3. THE PRONOUN EN

- – *As-tu beaucoup d'amis?*
- – *Oui, j'en ai beaucoup.*

- *Do you have a lot of friends?*
- *Yes, I do have lots of them.*



3. THE PRONOUN EN

Vocabulary

- **S'occuper de** *to tend to/to take care of*
- **Remercier de** *to thank for*
- **Se servir de** *to make use of/to use*
- **Se souvenir de** *to remember (something)*
- **Parler de** *to talk of*



C'est tout pour aujourd'hui!

Au revoir!

Merci!

