7A.2

Direct object pronouns vhlcentral

Point de départ In **Leçon 6B**, you learned about indirect objects. You are now going to learn about direct objects.

- A direct object is a noun that receives the action of a verb. An indirect object is usually the person or thing that receives the direct object.

DIRECT OBJECT / INDIRECT OBJECT

J'ai fait **un cadeau** **à ma sœur**.
I gave a present to my sister.

- While indirect objects are frequently preceded by the preposition **à**, no preposition is needed before a direct object.

DIRECT OBJECT

J'emmène **mes parents**.
I'm taking my parents.

but

INDIRECT OBJECT

Je parle **à mes parents**.
I'm talking to my parents.

Boîte à outils

Some French verbs do not take a preposition although their English equivalents do: **écouter** (*to listen to*), **chercher** (*to look for*) and **attendre** (*to wait for*). In deciding whether an object is direct or indirect, always check if the French verb takes the preposition **à**.

Direct object pronouns

singular		plural	
me/m'	*me*	nous	*us*
te/t'	*you*	vous	*you*
le/la/l'	*him/her/it*	les	*them*

- You can use a direct object pronoun in the place of a direct object noun.

Tu fais **les valises**?
Are you packing the suitcases?
→ Tu **les** fais?
Are you packing them?

Ils retrouvent **Luc** à la gare.
They're meeting Luc at the train station.
→ Ils **le** retrouvent à la gare.
They're meeting him at the train station.

Tu visites souvent **la Belgique**?
Do you visit Belgium often?
→ Tu **la** visites souvent?
Do you visit there often?

Boîte à outils

Like indirect objects, the direct object pronouns **me**, **te**, **nous**, and **vous** replace people. However, the direct objects **le**, **la**, and **les** can replace a person, a place, or a thing.

Vérifiez

Direct object pronouns with the present tense

- In the present tense, the direct object pronoun precedes the conjugated verb unless that verb is followed by an infinitive.

Les langues? Laurent et Xavier **les** étudient.
Languages? Laurent and Xavier study them.

Les élèves ne **vous** entendent pas.
The students don't hear you.

M'attendez-vous à l'aéroport?
Are you waiting for me at the airport?

Et Daniel? Tu ne **le** retrouves pas au cinéma?
And Daniel? Aren't you meeting him at the movies?

- When an infinitive follows a conjugated verb, the direct object pronoun precedes the infinitive.

Marcel va **nous écouter**.
Marcel will listen to us.

Tu ne préfères pas **la porter** demain?
Wouldn't you rather wear it tomorrow?