

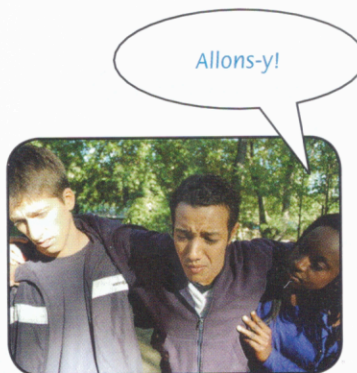
## 2B.2

The pronouns **y** and **en**

**Point de départ** The pronoun **y** replaces a previously mentioned phrase that begins with the prepositions **à, chez, dans, en, or sur**. The pronoun **en** replaces a previously mentioned phrase that begins with a partitive or indefinite article, or with the preposition **de**.

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE  
Nous allons **chez le médecin**.      ►      PRONOUN  
Nous **y** allons.

PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE  
Il était le chef **du Front Populaire**.      ►      PRONOUN  
Il **en** était le chef.



- The pronouns **y** and **en** precede the conjugated verb.

Es-tu allée **à la plage**?  
*Did you go to the beach?*

Oui, j'**y** suis allée.  
*Yes, I went there.*

Achètent-elles **de la moutarde**?  
*Are they buying mustard?*

Oui, elles **en** achètent.  
*Yes, they're buying some.*

Tu te mets **à la danse**?  
*Are you taking up dancing?*

Oui, je m'**y** mets.  
*Yes, I'm taking it up.*

Vous revenez **de vacances**?  
*Are you coming back from vacation?*

Oui, nous **en** revenons.  
*Yes, we're coming back from vacation.*

- In the **passé composé**, the past participle never agrees with **y** or **en**.

Avez-vous trouvé **des fraises**?  
*Did you find some strawberries?*

Oui, nous **en** avons trouvé.  
*Yes, we found some.*

- Like other pronouns in an infinitive construction, **y** and **en** follow the conjugated verb and precede the infinitive.

Quand préfères-tu manger **chez Fatima**?  
*When do you prefer to eat at Fatima's?*

Je préfère **y** manger demain soir.  
*I prefer to eat there tomorrow night.*

Vas-tu prendre **du thé**?  
*Are you going to have tea?*

Non, je ne vais pas **en** prendre.  
*No, I'm not going to have any.*

- Never omit **y** or **en** even when the English equivalents can be omitted.

Ah, vous allez **à la boulangerie**.  
*Oh, you're going to the bakery.*

Tu **y** vas aussi?  
*Are you going (there), too?*

Est-ce qu'elle prend **du sucre**?  
*Does she take sugar?*

Non, elle n'**en** prend pas.  
*No, she doesn't (take any).*



## Boîte à outils

Even though the past participle does not agree with **y** or **en**, it still agrees with the subject for verbs requiring the auxiliary **être** in the **passé composé**.

**Anne est allée à l'hôpital?**

**Oui, elle y est allée.**



## Vérifiez