

The Pronouns *y* and *en*

The Pronoun *y*

Y is an indirect object pronoun that precedes the verb. It usually replaces an inanimate noun (an idea or thing). The object is indirect, since it is preceded by a preposition, usually *à*.

Elle répond **à la question**.

She answers the question.

Elle **y** répond.

She answers it.

L'écrivain consacre son temps **à son roman**.

The writer devotes his time to his novel.

L'écrivain **y** consacre son temps.

The writer devotes his time to it.

For an animate object, French uses **lui** and **leur**.

Elle répond **au professeur**.

She answers the teacher.

Elle **lui** répond.

She answers him.

L'écrivain consacre peu de temps **à ses enfants**.

The writer devotes little time to his children.

Il **leur** consacre peu de temps.

He devotes little time to them.