

# YOU MEAN I HAVE TO KNOW THIS?

## VOL 3

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## Subject pronouns

Subjects do the verb. THEY ARE NOT NECESSARILY PEOPLE. THINGS CAN BE SUBJECTS. Consider the following sentence:

The ball hit Michael.

“The ball” is the subject because it did the verb. Here are a few sentences in French. What are the subjects? (In other words, what does the verb?)

Marie prend le sucre.

La dame achète le pain.

Le bâton frappe la balle.

Les autobus traversent la place.

If you chose *Marie*, *la dame*, *le bâton* and *les autobus*, you are absolutely right and win a prize. Come and find me to claim it.

To replace noun subjects with pronouns, we use the familiar ones:

*je, tu, il, elle, on, nous, vous, ils, elles.*

While *je, tu, on, nous, vous* obviously refer to people, *il, elle, ils, elles* can refer to things as well as people.



Le train arrive.

Il arrive.

(“It” arrives.)

La balle tombe.

Elle tombe.

(“It” falls.)

Les avions volent haut.

Ils volent haut.

(“They” fly high.)

Les pierres cassent la fenêtre.

Elles cassent la fenêtre.

(“They” break the window.)

## Pronouns objects and the imperative

In the imperative affirmative the order is different.  
In addition, *me* and *te* are replaced by *moi* and *toi*:

le la les

moi toi nous vous

lui leur

y

en



Donne-les-moi!

Donne-leur-en!

Achète-le-lui!

Mettez-l'y!

Note that in this case you have to put the *s* on the *tu* form of the imperative of *-er* verbs (including *aller*) before *y* and *en*.

Vas-y!

Achètes-en!



**Good  
News!**

With the negative imperative there is no change.

Ne me parle pas!

N'y allez pas!

Ne la taquine pas!

Ne leur donne pas de bonbons!

Let's look at a few examples:

mon livre	le mien	mine
tes amis	les tiens	yours
sa balle	la sienne	his or her
notre école	la nôtre	ours
vos livres	les vôtres	yours
leur voiture	la leur	theirs



This is pretty straightforward, but there are inevitably one or two twists. Here we go!

1. When you want to say "This book is mine" you can say either :

Ce livre est le mien.                      or                      Ce livre est à moi.

and use the disjunctive pronoun. Here are a few more examples:

Cette maison est la nôtre.	Cette maison est à nous,
Les disques sont les leurs.	Les disques sont à eux.
Ces billets sont les siens.	Ces billets sont à lui. or Ces billets sont à elle.

2. However, when you want to say "It's mine," you have to say this in a certain way. You say either:

Il est à moi.                      or                      C'est le mien.

But don't mix them up! Here are some examples:

Cette voiture est à nous.	C'est la nôtre.	Elle est à nous.
Ces livres sont les miens.	Ce sont les miens.	Ils sont à moi.
Ce sac n'est pas le mien.	Ce n'est pas le mien.	Il n'est pas à moi
Ces stylos sont les leurs.	Ce sont les leurs.	Ils sont à eux.