How to Use Object Pronouns in French

KS4 FRENCH GRAMMAR Ages 13-16 ⏰ 3 min read

What Are Object Pronouns?

In **French**, just like in English, we use **pronouns** to replace nouns and make sentences shorter and less repetitive. An **object pronoun** is a special type of pronoun that replaces the noun that receives the action in a sentence. For example, instead of saying "I love chocolate" and then "I eat the chocolate," you could say "I love it" and "I eat it."

Think of it like texting your friend. Instead of writing "Tell Sarah that Sarah should meet me at the park," you'd write "Tell Sarah that she should meet me at the park." The pronoun saves time and sounds more natural.

The Main French Object Pronouns

French has **nine main object pronouns**. They are: **me** (me), **te** (you, informal), **le** (him/it), **la** (her/it), **nous** (us), **vous** (you, formal or plural), **les** (them), **lui** (to him/her), and **leur** (to them). Some pronouns change depending on whether they refer to male or female nouns, or singular or plural.

These pronouns answer the question "whom?" or "what?" in a sentence. For instance, if someone asks "Do you like apples?" you could answer "Yes, I like them" using the object pronoun "them."

Where to Place Object Pronouns

In French, **object pronouns come before the verb**, not after like in English. This is one of the trickiest parts for English speakers learning French! For example, you would say "Je te regarde" (I you watch = I watch you), not "I watch you" as we say in English.

Think of it like a dance where the partners change positions. In English, the action comes last; in French, the object pronoun jumps in front of the action verb, changing the word order.

Practical Examples

Here are some real examples. "Tu me connais?" means "Do you know me?" The pronoun **me** comes before the verb **connais** (know). Another example: "Je les aime" means "I love them." The pronoun **les** (them) comes right before the verb **aime** (love).

Mastering object pronouns takes practice, but once you understand the pattern, you'll find your French becomes more fluent and natural-sounding!

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