


1. uses
2. placement

uses

y expressing place

Y replaces a preposition indicating location plus its object: 'à UT' (at UT), 'devant la Tour' (in front of the Tower). It is usually translated as **there**. Prepositions which indicate location include **à, en, dans, devant, derrière, sous, sur**. The noun objects of these prepositions are places and things which indicate a place. The exception is the preposition **chez** which is used with a person, as in 'chez Bette' (Bette's place). Note that **à** + person is replaced by an **indirect object pronoun** except with certain verbs.



 Bette: Tammy, tu vas à Waco?

Bette: Tammy, are you going to Waco?

Tammy: Oui, j'**y** vais ce week-end pour un bal à Baylor.

Tammy: Yes, I'm going **there** this weekend for a dance at Baylor.

Bette: Mais on ne peut pas **y** danser.

Bette: But you can't dance **there**.

Tammy: Mais si, les étudiants à Baylor ont maintenant le droit de danser.

Tammy: But yes, Baylor students now have the right to dance.

Bette: Super, on **y** va!

Bette: Super, let's go **there**!

y with certain verbs

With certain verbs **y** replaces the preposition **à** when its object is an idea or thing, but **not** a person. Some of these verbs are **penser à, réfléchir à** (to think about), **s'intéresser à** (to be interested in), **répondre à** (to answer to), **participer à** (to participate in). In these expressions, the preposition **à** is idiomatic. It does not indicate location in or movement toward.

 Tex s'intéresse à la philo. Il s'**y** intéresse énormément.

Tex is interested in philosophy. He's terribly interested **in it**.

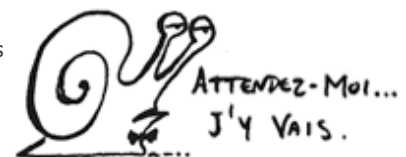
Tex pense toujours à l'existentialisme. Il **y** pense jour et nuit.

Tex always thinks about existentialism. He thinks **about it** night and day.

When these verbs are followed by a person, the **disjunctive pronoun** will be used, for example, 'Bette pense souvent à Tex. Elle pense souvent à lui.' (Bette often thinks of Tex. She often thinks of him.)

placement

Placement of **y** is the same as that of **direct** and **indirect** pronoun objects: **y** precedes the verb it refers to, except in the affirmative imperative. In compound tenses, like the **passé composé**, it precedes the auxiliary. Note that there is **no** agreement between **y** and the past participle, since **y** does not replace a direct object.



 Edouard: Où allez-vous?

Edouard: Where are you going?

Bette: A Waco. Tu veux **y** aller avec nous?

Bette: To Waco. Do you want to go **there** with us?

Edouard: Je n'**y** suis jamais allé. On m'a dit que Waco était une expérience anthropologique, le musée Dr. Pepper, le musée Texas Rangers, Baylor ...

Edouard: I've never been **there**. I've been told that Waco was an anthropological experience: the Dr. Pepper museum, the Texas Rangers museum, Baylor ...

Bette: Nous **y** allons tout de suite.

Bette: We're going **there** right away.

Edouard: Bon, attendez-moi, j'**y** vais aussi.
Allons-**y**!

Edouard: Good, wait for me I'm going
there, too. Let's go (**there**)!



exercices

fill in the blanks

Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the words in capital letters by the pronoun 'y.' Modèle: 'Bette et Tammy vont A WACO. Elles y vont.'

1. Fiona passe ses après-midis A LA BIBLIOTHEQUE.
2. Bette va souvent AU JARDIN PUBLIC.
3. Tex désire retourner A LYON.
4. Edouard ne veut pas travailler DANS UN RESTAURANT TEXAN.
5. Bette n'est pas encore allée EN FRANCE.
6. Joe-Bob ne va jamais EN CLASSE.
7. Joe-Bob: On va AU CINEMA ce week-end?
8. Tammy s'intéresse A LA CULTURE FRANÇAISE.
9. Tex réfléchit beaucoup A LA PHILOSOPHIE.
10. Tex, tu joues AUX CARTES?
11. Tex et ses amis sont allés A L'ALAMO.
12. Edouard a immigré AUX ETATS-UNIS.