

## LES PRONOMS TONIQUES

Before covering the interrogative word Qui (who) in a future chapter, I thought it would be quite helpful to study what we call in French *Les pronoms toniques*. In English, I think they call it stress pronouns, or disjunctive pronouns, something like that. Please let me know if I'm wrong 😊.

A little story to illustrate all of them:

Five kids [3 girls + 2 boys] are playing in a kitchen when somebody breaks a glass. Their mother comes down the stairs and asks them angrily:

- **Who** did this? (*Qui a fait ceci?*)

-It's him (**lui**), says girl # 1 pointing at boy #1

-No, it's not me (**moi**), replies boy #1. It's her (**elle**), (pointing at girl #2)

-No, he's lying, says girl #2. She points at boys # 1 and # 2 and says: It's them (**eux**)

-No, liar, replies boy #2, it's you (**toi**) instead, pointing at girl #2.

-Actually says boy #1, I think they (girls) all did it. It's them (**elles**), pointing at girls #1, 2, and 3.

- What! Shout the girls all together; it's not us (**nous**)! It's you (**vous**) both, pointing at boys #1 and 2.

Okay, the words in **bold** are the *pronoms toniques* in French, and you've just learned their translations into English in this little story.

Me = **Moi**

Us = **Nous**

You = **Toi**

You = **Vous**

Him = **Lui**

Them (boys) = **Eux**

Her = **Elle**

Them (girls) = **Elles**

2 of these "pronoms toniques" are exactly the same as the pronoms personnels (nous – vous) we studied in Week 1, but the others aren't. So don't get confused.

The "pronoms toniques" can also be called prepositional pronouns in English [*les pronoms prépositionnels*] because they can be used after prepositions. For example, if I say, "**without you, I cannot live**", in French, it will be = "*sans toi, je ne peux (pas) vivre*", where sans (*without*) is the preposition and toi, the pronoun. These prepositional pronouns will be very useful when we study the relative pronouns. These are the same pronouns you use in compound structures such as You and me, (**toi et moi**), Robert and us (**Robert et nous**), Anne and them (boys) (**Anne et eux**), Roger and them (girls) (**Roger et elles**), You and him (**toi et lui**), You and her (**Toi et elle**), Me and you guys (**moi et vous**)

Merci 😊