



**INTRODUCTION TO THE PAST TENSE:
PAST PARTICIPLES**
Eleventh lesson – Onzième leçon

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INTRODUCTION

- To explain the *passé composé*, the lesson is split into three sections:
- 1. This first section presents a definition of the compound past tense and introduces the main forms of past participles.



INTRODUCTION

- 2. The second presents the compound tense of verbs conjugated with the helping (auxiliary) verb **avoir** (to have).
- This category of verbs is the largest.



INTRODUCTION

- 3. The third one presents the compound tense of verbs conjugated with the helping (auxiliary) verb **être** (to be).
- This category of verbs includes all pronominal verbs and verbs that express movement.



1. DEFINITION

- The **passé composé** is the most common past tense in French. It is used to refer to **actions completed in the past**.
- It has two equivalents in English. The use of one or the other depends on the context.
 - *J'ai dansé.*
→ *I danced / I have danced*



1. DEFINITION

- This tense is **composed of two elements**: the present tense of an **auxiliary** verb (either **avoir** or **être**), followed by a **past participle**.

○ **Passé composé**

=

auxiliary verb (*in the present tense*)

+

past participle (**main verb**)



1. DEFINITION

- **Most verbs** are conjugated **with avoir**. Verbs that indicate a kind of **movement**
- All **pronominal verbs** are conjugated with **être**



2. PAST PARTICIPLES OF –ER VERBS: THE FIRST GROUP

- Past participles can be regular or irregular.
 - 1. Past participles of the **first group**
- For regular verbs with an infinitive in **–er**, **drop –er** and **add –é**.
 - *Étudier* → *étudié* (same pronunciation)



2.1 THE PAST TENSE OF –ER VERBS

○ Étudier-*to study*

Singular	Plural
J'ai étudi <u>é</u>	Nous avons étudi <u>é</u>
Tu as étudi <u>é</u>	Vous avez étudi <u>é</u>
Il/elle/on a étudi <u>é</u>	Ils/elles ont étudi <u>é</u>



2.1 THE PAST TENSE OF –ER VERBS

- *Hier soir, j'ai étudié le français*
- *Last night, I studied French.*

○ More verbs like **étudier**:

- *Rêver* *to dream*
- *Penser* *to think*
- *Détester* *to hate*
- *Regarder* *to watch*
- *Voyager* *to travel*



3. PAST PARTICIPLES OF –IR VERBS: THE SECOND GROUP

- 2. To obtain a past participles of the **–ir**, **drop** the **–ir** ending and **add –i**.
 - *Finir* → *fini*



3.1 THE PAST TENSE OF –IR VERBS

- Finir –*to finish*

Singular	Plural
J' ai fini <u>i</u>	Nous avons fini <u>i</u>
Tu as fini <u>i</u>	Vous avez fini <u>i</u>
Il/elle/on a fini <u>i</u>	Ils/elles ont fini <u>i</u>



3.1 THE PAST TENSE OF –IR VERBS

- *Hier soir, j'ai fini mon devoir de français*
- *Last night, I finished my French homework*

- More verbs like **finir**:

- *Bénir* *to bless*
- *Guérir* *to heal/cure/recover*
- *Maigrir* *to lose weight*
- *Grossir* *to put on weight*
- *Réussir* *to succeed*



4. THE PAST PARTICIPLES OF – RE VERBS: THE THIRD GROUP

- 3. To obtain the past participles of a **–re** verb, **drop –re** and **add –u**.
 - *Perdre* → *perdu* (to lose)



4.1 THE PAST TENSE OF –RE VERB

- Perdre – *to loose*

Singular	plural
J' ai perdu <u>u</u>	Nous avons perdu <u>u</u>
Tu as perdu <u>u</u>	Vous avez perdu <u>u</u>
Il/elle/on a perdu <u>u</u>	Ils/elles ont perdu <u>u</u>



4.1 THE PAST TENSE OF –RE VERBS

- *Ce matin, j'ai perdu mon devoir de français*

- *This morning, I lost my French homework*

○ Other verbs like **perdre**:

- *Attendre* *to wait for*
- *Descendre* *to descend*
- *Entendre* *to hear*
- *Vendre* *to sell*
- *Répondre* *to answer*



5. IRREGULAR PAST PARTICIPLES

- 4. Irregular past participles
- Many verbs, however, have **irregular past participles**.
- The past participles of many common irregular verbs **which have « avoir » as an auxiliary** are listed on the next slide.



5. IRREGULAR PAST PARTICIPLES

Infinitive	Past participle	Infinitive	Past participle
Être (<i>to be</i>)	été	Connaître (<i>to know</i>)	connu
Suivre (<i>to follow</i>)	suivi	Croire (<i>to believe</i>)	cru
Mettre (<i>to put</i>)	mis	Devoir (<i>to have to</i>)	dû
Prendre (<i>to take</i>)	pris	Lire (<i>to read</i>)	lu
Dire (<i>to tell</i>)	dit	Pouvoir (<i>to be able to</i>)	pu
Écrire (<i>to write</i>)	écrit	Recevoir(<i>to receive</i>)	reçu
Faire(<i>to do</i>)	fait	Savoir(<i>to know</i>)	su
Ouvrir(<i>to open</i>)	ouvert	Tenir(<i>to hold</i>)	tenu
Avoir (<i>to have</i>)	eu	Voir (<i>to see</i>)	vu
Boire (<i>to drink</i>)	bu	Vouloir (<i>to want</i>)	voulu

C'est tout pour aujourd'hui!

Au revoir!

Merci!

