



THE IMPERFECT & PASSÉ COMPOSÉ

Twenty-seventh lesson – Vingt-septième leçon

CONTENTS

- 1) Definition

- 2) Uses : passé composé
 - 2.1) When talking about events completed in the past...
 - 2.2) With completion, duration...

- 3) Uses : imparfait
 - 3.1) When describing in the past...
 - 3.2) With expressions of time that suggest repetition



1. DEFINITION

- The **imperfect** and the **passé composé** tenses are often used together in the same sentence whenever someone is talking about the past.
- The two tenses complement each other and contribute in style to the narrative.
- Therefore it is important to know when to use which. There are some general guidelines.



2. USES: PASSÉ COMPOSÉ

2.1 When talking about events completed in the past

- *Cette nuit, j'ai bien dormi.*
- *Last night, I slept well.*



2. USES: PASSÉ COMPOSÉ

2.2 With completion, duration, commencement, or termination

- *La semaine dernière, je **suis restée** chez moi pendant trois jours.*
 - *Last week, I stayed at home for three days.*



3) USES : IMPERFECT

3.1 When describing , narrating incomplete or interrupted events, or talking about repeated, habitual events in the past:

- *Hier, je dormais dans ma chambre, quand j'ai entendu un bruit bizarre dans la maison.*
- *Yesterday, I was sleeping in my room when I heard a weird noise in the house.*



3. USES : IMPERFECT

3.2) With expressions of time that suggest repetition, such as *souvent* (often), *fréquemment* (frequently), *chaque jour/tous les jours* (each, every day)...

- *Quand j'étais étudiante, je ne **sortais** pas souvent. Tous les jours j'**allais** en cours et puis j'**allais** à la bibliothèque où je **lisais** pendant des heures. Le dimanche **était** mon seul jour de repos alors je **rendais** visite à mes parents.*
- *When I was a student, I didn't go out so often. I went to lectures everyday then I used to go to the library where I would read for hours. Sunday was my only day off so I used to visit my parents.*



C'est tout pour aujourd'hui!

Au revoir!

Merci!

