



THE PLUPERFECT TENSE

Thirtieth lesson – Trentième leçon

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1. DEFINITION

- The pluperfect (**le plus-que-parfait**), also known as the past perfect, is used to speak of the past within the past.
- It expresses an event that happened before another event in the past.



1. DEFINITION

- In English, this is formed with the auxiliary *to have* and the past participle.
- In French it's formed with the auxiliary **avoir** and the past participle of the main verb.



2. USES

Observe :

- *J'avais déjà **dîné** quand il m'a invité au restaurant.*
 - *I had already had dinner when he invited me to the restaurant.*

- *Il **avait fini** son travail quand je l'ai appelé.*
 - *He had finished his work when I called him.*



2. USES

- Sometimes the pluperfect tense can also establish a relation between the past and the present.
 - This link is **explicit** or **implied**. In such a context the second verb of the sentence can be in the infinitive form, the imperfect tense or in the conditional mood:
 - *Tu m'avais promis de m'aimer.*
 - *You had promised to love me.*



3. FORMS

- To form the pluperfect, you must know the imperfect conjugations of **avoir** and **être** and the past participle of the main verb.
- It is formed in the same way as the **passé composé**.
- The rules regarding when to use **être** and when to use **avoir** are also the same.



2. FORMS

○ THE PASSÉ COMPOSÉ AND THE PLUS-QUE-PARFAIT

Passé composé	Plus-que-parfait
J'ai pensé <i>I (have) thought</i>	J'avais pensé <i>I (had) thought</i>
Tu as vu <i>You (have) seen / you saw</i>	Tu avais vu <i>You (had) seen / you saw</i>
Il/elle/on s'est lavé(e) <i>He/she (have) washed...</i>	Il/elle/on s'était lavé <i>He/she (had) washed...</i>
Nous sommes parti(e)s <i>We (have) left</i>	Nous étions parti(e)s <i>We (had) left</i>
Vous avez compris <i>You (have) understood</i>	Vous aviez compris <i>You (had) understood</i>
Ils/elles ont bu <i>They (have) drunk</i>	Ils/elles avaient bu <i>They (had) drunk</i>



C'est tout pour aujourd'hui!

Au revoir!

Merci!

