

Passé Composé (key)

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Passé
Compose (...)

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Avoir - To have

J'ai - I have

NOUS avons - we have

Tu as - You have

Vous avez - you (f/p) have

On/Ill/elle a - He/we/she have

Ils/Elles ont - They have

-RE VERBS

NOM: _____ CLASSE: _____

Passé Composé

Uses

The **passé composé** is the most commonly used tense to refer to actions completed in the past. The passé composé may be translated into English in three different ways depending on the context.



Tex **a mangé** toute la viande!

Tex ate all the meat!

Tex has eaten all the meat!

Tex did eat all the meat!

Inf manger
past part. mangé

lancer lancer
↓ lancé
danser danser
↓ dansé

Ils ont
Ils sont

Formation

This tense is called the **passé composé** because it is composed of two elements: the present tense of an auxiliary verb (either **avoir** or **être**), followed by a past participle:

passé composé = present tense of auxiliary + past participle

Note that in most instances the auxiliary verb is **avoir**, but some verbs require **être** as the auxiliary.

For regular verbs with an infinitive ending in **-er**, the past participle is formed by replacing the final **-er** of the infinitive with **-é**. Listen carefully to the pronunciation of the passé composé of the verb 'parler'. The past participle (**parlé**) is pronounced the same as the infinitive (**parler**), even though they are spelled differently.

Avoir past partic. J'ai mangé

parler 'to talk'	
j' ai parlé , I (have) talked	nous avons parlé , we (have) talked
tu as parlé , you (have) talked	vous avez parlé , you (have) talked
il, elle / on a parlé , he, she (it) / one (has) talked	ils / elles ont parlé , they (have) talked

Avoir + past part. I have eaten
J'ai + mangé

The past participle of regular verbs with an infinitive ending in **-ir** is formed by dropping the final **-r** from the infinitive. For example, the past participle of **finir** is **fini**.

finir 'to finish'	
j' ai fini , I (have) finished	nous avons fini , we (have) finished
tu as fini , you (have) finished	vous avez fini , you (have) finished
il, elle / on a fini , he, she (it) / one (has) finished	ils / elles ont fini , they (have) finished

Inf - choisir
Past Part. - choisi

Grandir
grandi

-RE VERBS

Inf → **Vendre**
P.P → **vendu**

The past participle of regular verbs with an infinitive ending in **-re** is formed by replacing the final **-re** of the infinitive with **-u**. For example, the past participle of **perdre** is **perdu**.

perdre 'to lose'	
J' ai perdu , I (have) lost	nous avons perdu , we (have) lost
tu as perdu , you (have) lost	vous avez perdu , you (have) lost
il,elle / on a perdu , he, she (it) / one (has) lost	ils / elles ont perdu , they (have) lost

Note that many verbs, however, have irregular past participles. The past participles of many common irregular verbs which have **avoir** as an auxiliary are listed below.

infinitive	translation	past participle
avoir	to have	eu
être	to be	été
faire	to do	fait
ouvrir	to open	ouvert
prendre	to take	pris
mettre	to put	mis
suivre	to follow	suivi
boire	to drink	bu
croire	to believe	cru
voir	to see	vu
savoir	to know	su
connaître	to know	connu
dire	to say	dit
lire	to read	lu
écrire	to write	écrit
pouvoir	to be able to	pu
vouloir	to want	voulu
devoir	to have to	dû
tenir	to hold	tenu
recevoir	to receive	reçu

J'ai
été

J'ai
brossé

had
been
done
opened
taken
put
followed

Negation

Negation of the passé composé is formed by placing **ne ... pas** around the conjugated verb, which, in this case, is the auxiliary **avoir**.

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↑
around -
avoir

Je n'ai pas
mangé
Tu n'as pas fini
les devoirs