LE PASSÉ COMPOSÉ

In French you use the perfect tense (le **passé composé**) to say what you have done at a certain time in the past.

The **passé composé** is usually formed by using the present tense of AVOIR and the past participle of the verb, just as in English.

J’ai joué = *I have played*

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| --- | --- |
| Auxiliary verb (AVOIR) past participle | Auxiliary verb (AVOIR) past participle |
| J’ai joué  Tu as joué  Il/elle a joué | Nous avons joué  Vous avez joué  Ils/elles ont joué |

* To form the past participle of –er verbs, take the –er off the infinitive and replace it with –é.

Jouer -> joué

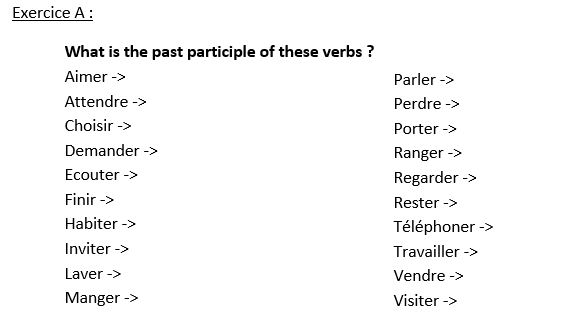
* Regular –ir verbs make their past participles by taking off the final –r :

Dormir -> dormi partir -> parti

Finir -> fini sortir -> sorti

* Regular –re verbs take off the –re and replace it with –u :

Répondre -> répondu



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| --- |
| Past participles of IRREGULAR verbs  Avoir ->  (to drink) Boire ->  ( to read) Lire ->  (to see) Voir ->  (to come) Venir ->  (to say) Dire ->  (to write) Ecrire ->  (to do) Faire->  (to take) Prendre ->  (to learn) Apprendre ->  (to understand) Comprendre ->  (to put) Mettre -> |

Translation :

1. I took the bus =
2. He drank some water =
3. We read some magazines =
4. I learned spanish =
5. Have you (*plural*) done your homework ? =
6. He didn’t understand =
7. Have you (*singular*) seen this film ? =
8. She wrote a response to her letter =
9. They (*masc*) went on a bike ride =

(faire une balade en vélo)

1. I have put on my black trousers =

The perfect tense and negatives :

The negative words go around the auxiliary verb (AVOIR/ETRE)

Je n’ai pas fini = I haven’t finished

Je n’ai jamais fait de ski = I have never skied

Il n’a rien mangé = he hasn’t eaten anything

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In the perfect tense most verbs take AVOIR but some take ETRE.

Je suis allé(e) = I went / I have been

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Je suis | Nous sommes |
| Tu es | Vous êtes |
| Il/elle/on est | Ils/elles sont |

With verbs which use ***être*** *as the auxiliary verb, the past participle agrees with the subject, that means it takes an* ***e*** *if the subject is feminine and* ***s*** *if the subject is plural.*

Exercice B :

1. Tom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ allé au collège
2. Nicolas \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ allé au cinéma
3. Patrice et Fabien \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ allé\_\_\_ à la piscine
4. Ma sœur \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ allé\_\_\_ en ville
5. Mes frères \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ allé\_\_\_ à la plage
6. Je \_\_\_\_\_ allé en ville
7. Où \_\_\_\_\_\_-tu allé ?
8. Vous \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ allé chez Maurice
9. Les filles \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ allé\_\_\_\_ à la boum
10. Paul et Sabine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ allé\_\_\_\_ à la gare

**The following verbs form the passé composé with ETRE.** MRS VAN DE TRAMP

Monter

Rester

Sortir

Venir

Arriver

Naitre

Descendre

Entrer

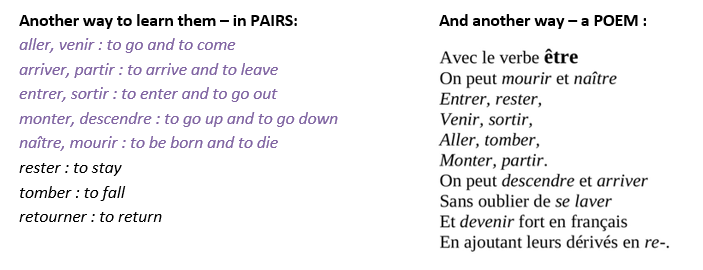
Tomber

Retourner

Aller

Mourir

Partir

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*Exercice C:*

1. *Je \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ à 8h (partir)*
2. *Il \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ à 10h (partir)*
3. *Elle \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ à 11h (partir)*
4. *Tu \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ à midi (partir)*
5. *Nous \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ à 16h (arriver)*
6. *Vous \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ à 17h (arriver)*
7. *Les filles \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ à 22h (arriver)*
8. *Isabelle \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ à la maison (rester)*
9. *Nicolas \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dans la rue (tomber)*
10. *Ses frères \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ avec lui (rester)*

*Reflexive verbs in the past tense :*

*All reflexive verbs take* ***être*** *in the perfect tense.*

*The past participle agrees with the subject*

*Se reposer = to relax*

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| --- | --- |
| *Je me suis reposé(e)* | *Nous nous sommes reposé(e)s* |
| *Tu t’es reposé(e)* | *Vous vous êtes reposé(e)s* |
| *Il/elle/on s’est reposé(e)* | *Ils/elles se sont reposé(e)s* |

*Exercice D :*

1. *Je \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (se reposer = to relax, to rest)*
2. *Nous \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (se baigner = to to in the water)*
3. *Ils \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (se disputer = to argue )*
4. *Vous \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(s’habiller = to get dressed)*
5. *Elles \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (s’amuser = to have fun)*
6. *Tu \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (se lever = to get up)*

*Useful expressions :*

* *Hier = yesterday*
* *La semaine dernière = last week*
* *Il y a 2 ans = 2 years ago*
* *Samedi dernier = last Saturday*
* *Pendant les dernières vacances = during the last holidays*

*To give an opinion about an event in the past :*

* *J’ai passé un bon moment = I had a good time*
* *Je me suis bien amusé(e) = I had fun*
* *Je me suis ennuyé(e) = I was bored*
* *C’était excitant = It was exciting*
* *C’était décevant = It was disappointing*
* *C’était une bonne expérience = It was a good experience*
* *J’ai beaucoup apprécié de faire ça = I liked doing that*
* *J’ai regretté d’avoir fait ça = I regretted doing that*