

The Passé Composé Tense

Look at the following 3 sentences.

Ali played football yesterday

They have visited Paris 3 times

We did tidy the bedroom

What do they have in common?

Is this done in the same way in each sentence?

All 3 of these English tenses can be translated by just 1 tense in French. It is called...

The Passé Composé

Each of the following sentences contains an example of the Passé Composé tense.

Ali a joué au foot hier

Ils ont visité Paris 3 fois

Nous avons rangé la chambre

What is the first thing you notice about this tense?

Look at the first of the highlighted words in each sentence.

Where have you come across this before?

As a reminder to you, here is the Present Tense of Avoir

The Present tense of Avoir

J'ai	Nous avons
Tu as	Vous avez
Il a	Ils ont
Elle a	Elles ont

Now take a look at the second of the highlighted words in each sentence.

Ali a joué au foot hier

Ils ont visité Paris 3 fois

Nous avons rangé la chambre

This is known as the Past Participle

To form the past participle, take the infinitive (the form of the verb you find in the dictionary) and do the following:

- For -ER verbs, remove the -er and change it to -é
- For -IR verbs, remove the -ir and change it to -i
- For -RE verbs, remove the -re and change it to -u

Here are some examples of the 3 types of verb.
Change the infinitive into the past participle

travailler	→	travaillé
regarder	→	regardé
finir	→	fini
choisir	→	choisi
répondre	→	répondu
entendre	→	entendu

So remember...

The Passé Composé is made up of 2 parts.

- The first is part of the present tense of Avoir
- The second is the past participle of the verb you want to put into the past

Eg Il a regardé
 Nous avons fini
 J' ai répondu

Part of avoir



Past participle



Now that you know the present tense of Avoir and how to form the Past Participle, test yourself with the following sentences

J' **ai** **travaillé** (travailler)

ont

ai

a

avez

as

avons

travaillu

travaillé

travailli

Il a regardé (regarder)

ont

ai

a

avez

as

avons

regardu

regardi

regardé

Nous

avons

fini (finir)

ont

ai

a

avez

as

avons

finu

fini

finé

Ils

ont

joué

(jouer)

ont

ai

a

avez

as

avons

jouu

joui

joué

Maman

a

répondu

(répondre)

ont

ai

a

avez

as

avons

répondu

répondi

répondé

Vous

avez

choisi

(choisir)

ont

ai

a

avez

as

avons

choisu

choisi

choisé

Christina et moi

avons

chanté

(chanter)

ont

ai

a

avez

as

avons

chantu

chanti

chanté

Reto et Marc

ont

écouté

(écouter)

ont

ai

a

avez

as

avons

écoutu

écouti

écouté

Tu

as

parlé (parler)

ont

ai

a

avez

as

avons

parlu

parli

parlé

Elle

a

entendu (entendre)

ont

ai

a

avez

as

avons

entendu

entendi

entendé

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