

# French 3

## Chapter 1.2 Grammar Review

### The Passé Composé

- The Passé Composé states something happened at a specific moment in the past. It is formed with a helping verb (*être* or *avoir*) and a Past Participle of the main verb. To form the Past Participle, remove the verb ending and replace it with the appropriate ending below:

VERB GROUP	PAST PARTICIPLE	EXAMPLE		
- ER	- é	parler	→	parlé
- IR	- i	choisir		choisi
- RE	- u	perdre		perdu

- NEGATIONS:** Add **ne/n'** and **pas** around the **conjugated** verb, which is always the helping verb.
  - Ex: Tu **n'as pas** mangé de pizza?\* → Negation around the conjugated verb **Avoir**
  - Ex: Je **ne suis pas** allé au marché → Negation around the conjugated verb **Être**

\* Don't forget that **un, une** and **des** become **de/d'** in negative sentences.
- WHICH HELPING VERB?:** Remember, ALL verbs use **Avoir** as the helping verb unless it's a *Dr. & Mrs. Vandertrampp* verb OR a *Reflexive Verb* which use **Être** instead.
  - Ex: Vous **avez mangé** une pizza? → Use **Avoir** as the helping verb.
  - Ex: Je **suis allé** au supermarché → Use **Être** with *Dr & Mrs Vandertrampp* verbs.
  - Ex: Ils se **sont brossé** les dents. → Use **Être** with *Reciprocal (Reflexive)* verbs.
- PAST PARTICIPLE AGREEMENT OR NOT?:** Remember, the Past Participle ALWAYS agrees with the *Direct Object* (NEVER the Indirect Object) when it appears **before** the conjugated verb, unless it's a *Dr. & Mrs. Vandertrampp* verb which agree with the *Subject* instead.
  - Ex: Ces livres? Oui, je les ai lus. → Past Participle agreement with the *DOP* "les".
  - Ex: Ils se sont préparés → Past Participles agrees with the *DOP* "se".
  - Ex: Elles sont allées au parc. → Past Participle agrees with the *Subject* "elles".
  - Ex: Ils se sont brossé les dents → **NO** Past Participle agreement, "se" is an *IOP*.
  - Ex: Il a mangé la pizza → **NO** Past Participle agreement, *DOP* is after verb.
- IRREGULAR PAST PARTICIPLES:** Here are some irregular Past Participles for memorization.

Verb	Past Participle	Verb	Past Participle	Verb	Past Participle
avoir	<i>eu</i>	faire	<i>fait</i>	pouvoir	<i>pu</i>
boire	<i>bu</i>	lire	<i>lu</i>	prendre	<i>pris</i>
connaître	<i>connu</i>	mettre	<i>mis</i>	recevoir	<i>reçu</i>
croire	<i>cru</i>	offrir	<i>offert</i>	venir	<i>venu</i>
devoir	<i>dû</i>	ouvrir	<i>ouvert</i>	voir	<i>vu</i>
être	<i>été</i>	pleuvoir	<i>plu</i>	vouloir	<i>voulu</i>

# The Imparfait

1. **IMPARFAIT:** The *Imparfait* is very regular. Être is the only irregular verb, whose stem is *ét-*. To form the *Imparfait*, drop the **–ons** from the present tense conjugation *nous* form to get your verb stem, and then add the following endings:

	<b>PARLER</b>	<b>FINIR</b>	<b>VENDRE</b>
je/j'	parlais	finissais	vendais
tu	parlais	finissais	vendais
il/elle/on	parlait	finissait	vendait
nous	parlions	finissions	vendions
vous	parliez	finissiez	vendiez
ils/elles	parlaient	finissaient	vendaient

2. **IMPARFAIT –GER & –CER Verbs:** All –GER and –CER verbs make changes before verb ending in all forms except the *nous* and *vous* form to retain their pronunciation:  
 Ex: Nous mangeons (présent) → Je mangeais, *but* nous mangions (imparfait)  
 Ex: Nous commençons (présent) → Je commençais, *but* nous commencions (imparfait)

## The Passé Composé vs The Imparfait

1. When talking about the past, remember the Passé Composé and the Imparfait have different uses:

<b>PASSÉ COMPOSÉ</b>	<b>IMPARFAIT</b>
Tell what happened on a specific occasion or at a well-defined period of time. (Ex: <i>J'ai joué au foot hier soir.</i> )	Say how things used to be and what people, places, and things were generally like. (Ex: <i>Il <b>faisait</b> beau ce jour.</i> )
Tell the sequence of events. State how things happened one after the other. (Ex: <i>Hier, j'<b>ai mangé</b> et puis j'<b>ai bu</b>.)</i> )	Describe actions taking place at the same time. Often, “was-ing”/”were-ing”. (Ex: <i>Je <b>mangais</b> pendant que tu <b>lisais</b>.)</i> )
Talk about a change or reaction to something. (Ex: <i>Elle <b>a vu</b> l'accident!</i> )	Explain the circumstances surrounding an event. (Ex: <i>Il ne <b>regardait</b> pas la rue!</i> )
Talk about an event that began or ended while something else was going on. Interrupting an ongoing action. (Ex: <i>J'<b>ai fini</b> mon livre pendant que mon frère jouait au foot au parc.</i> )	Say what was going on when something else happened or interrupted the event that was going on. (Ex: <i>Je <b>lisais</b> un nouveau livre quand soudain, il a commence à pleuvoir!)</i> )

2. **WOULD/USED TO:** As stated above, use the *Imparfait* to talk about *repeated* actions in the past that indicate how things *were* or what *would* happen or *used to* happen. The Passé Composé **ONLY** describes a *one-time* and *completed* event.

Ex: Quand j'*étais* plus petit, nous *allions* au lac chaque été. Ma cousine y *est allée* une fois.  
 When I *was* young, we *would/used to* go the lake every summer. My cousin *went* once.