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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 **a mangé** toute la viande! Tex has eaten all the meat!
🔊 Tex **a mangé** toute la viande! Tex did eat all the meat!



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.

🔊

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

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

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
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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


negation

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

 Oh, regardez! Tex a mangé toute la viande! Tammy, au contraire, **n'a pas** mangé de viande! Elle est végétarienne, comme la plupart des tatous.

Oh, look! Tex ate all the meat! Tammy, on the other hand, did not eat any meat! She is a vegetarian, like most armadillos.

Listen to the following dialogue:

 Joe-Bob arrive chez Tammy. Il meurt de faim. Mais il est trop tard.
Joe-Bob: Tammy, j'**ai perdu** ma collection

Joe-Bob arrives at Tammy's house. He is dying of hunger. But it is too late.

Joe-Bob: Tammy, I lost my nut collection.

de noix. Est-ce que je peux dîner avec vous?

Tammy: Je suis désolée, Joe-Bob. Tex **a fini** toute la viande. A mon avis, il **a trop mangé**.

Joe-Bob: Ce n'est pas grave Tammy. Je peux trouver quelque chose dans la cuisine ... Mon dieu, Tammy! Est-ce que tu **as vu?** Tex **a dégobillé** partout. C'est dégueulasse!

Tammy: Ça ne m'étonne pas. Ce petit tatou carnivore, il n'est pas aussi évolué que moi!

Can I have dinner with y'all?

Tammy: I am sorry Joe-Bob. Tex finished all the meat. In my opinion, he ate too much.

Joe-Bob: It's okay Tammy. I can find something in the kitchen ... My god, Tammy! Have you seen? Tex threw up everywhere. It's disgusting!

Tammy: That doesn't surprise me. That little carnivorous armadillo. He is not as enlightened as I am!



exercices

fill in the blanks

Give the passé composé of the verb indicated in parentheses.

1. Fiona: Corey, est-ce que tu _____ de l'insecticide? (boire)
2. Tex: J' _____ de nouveaux poèmes. (écrire)
3. Tex et Edouard _____ le match de foot. (regarder)
4. Tex et Tammy _____ des amis hier soir. (rencontrer)
5. Tammy _____ beaucoup de crêpes pour la fête. (préparer)
6. Tex _____ visite à Paw-Paw. (rendre)
7. Tammy et Bette _____ du shopping hier. (faire)
8. Tammy: Corey et Joe-Bob, est-ce que vous _____ mes devoirs dans le frigo? (voir)
9. Tammy et Bette: Nous _____ n'est-ce pas, Tex? (mincir)
10. Tammy: Joe-Bob, est-ce que tu _____ la leçon? (comprendre)
11. Les étudiants _____ à Tex. (ne pas obéir)
12. Fiona: Alors, est-ce qu'on _____ le film? (aimer)