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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' <b>ai parlé</b> , I (have) talked	nous <b>avons parlé</b> , we (have) talked
tu <b>as parlé</b> , you (have) talked	vous <b>avez parlé</b> , you (have) talked
il, elle / on <b>a parlé</b> , he, she (it) / one (has) talked	ils / elles <b>ont parlé</b> , 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' <b>ai fini</b> , I (have) finished	nous <b>avons fini</b> , we (have) finished
tu <b>as fini</b> , you (have) finished	vous <b>avez fini</b> , you (have) finished
il, elle / on <b>a fini</b> , he, she (it) / one (has) finished	ils / elles <b>ont fini</b> , 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' <b>ai perdu</b> , I (have) lost	nous <b>avons perdu</b> , we (have) lost
tu <b>as perdu</b> , you (have) lost	vous <b>avez perdu</b> , you (have) lost


il,elle / on <b>a perdu</b> , he, she (it) / one (has) lost	ils / elles <b>ont perdu</b> , 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	<b>eu</b>
être	to be	<b>été</b>
faire	to do	<b>fait</b>
ouvrir	to open	<b>ouvert</b>
prendre	to take	<b>pris</b>
mettre	to put	<b>mis</b>
suivre	to follow	<b>suivi</b>
boire	to drink	<b>bu</b>
croire	to believe	<b>cru</b>
voir	to see	<b>vu</b>
savoir	to know	<b>su</b>
connaître	to know	<b>connu</b>
dire	to say	<b>dit</b>
lire	to read	<b>lu</b>
écrire	to write	<b>écrit</b>
pouvoir	to be able to	<b>pu</b>
vouloir	to want	<b>voulu</b>
devoir	to have to	<b>dû</b>
tenir	to hold	<b>tenu</b>
recevoir	to receive	<b>reçu</b>

### 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, <b>n'a pas</b> 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.
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Listen to the following dialogue:

 Joe-Bob arrive chez Tammy. Il meurt de faim. Mais il est trop tard.	Joe-Bob arrives at Tammy's house. He is dying of hunger. But it is too late.
Joe-Bob: Tammy, j' <b>ai perdu</b> ma collection	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)