

# 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

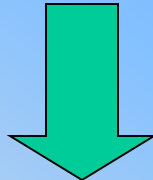
Nous **avons rangé** la chambre

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**

What do you notice about the following past participles?

travailler → travaillé  
regarder → regardé

finir → fini  
choisir → choisi

répondre → répondu  
entendre → entendu

- 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**

# So the Passé Composé is made up of....

- 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



II

a

regardé

(regarder la télé)

ont

ai

a

avez

as

avons

regardu

regardi

regardé

Ils

ont

joué

(jouer au tennis)

ont

ai

a

avez

as

avons

jouu

joui

joué

Christina et moi

avons

chanté

(chanter)

ont

ai

a

avez

as

avons

chantu

chanti

chanté

Reto et Marc

ont

écouté (écouter la  
radio)

ont

ai

a

avez

as

avons

écoutu

écouti

écouté

Tu

as

bavardé (bavarder)

ont

ai

a

avez

as

avons

Bavardu

bavardi

bavardé

Elle

a

fait

(faire un gateau)

ont

ai

a

avez

as

avons

fairé

fairi

fait

What do you notice about these 3 sentences?

Elle **a** fait les devoirs

J'**ai** pris le bus

Tu **as** lu le livre

What do they have in common?

Is this done in the same way in each sentence?

**They are irregular**

# Irregular Past Participles

Verb	Meaning	Past participle	Meaning
Avoir	To have	Eu	
Boire	To drink	Bu	
Lire	To read	Lu	
Voir	To see	Vu	
Dire	To say	Dit	
Faire	To do/make	Fait	
Écrire	To write	Écrit	
Prendre	To take/have	Pris	
Apprendre	To understand	Appris	
Mettre	To put	Mis	