

French: Passé Composé – The Compound Past Tense

When do I use this?

When you speak of something (a completed action) that happened in the past!

How do I conjugate this?

(Conjugated for the subject)



Past Participles :

Verb Ending	Past Participle (agrees with subject when ÊTRE is used)
-er (ex: parler)	-é (ex: parlé)
-ir	-i
-re	-u
Mettre/promettre/etc	-mis
Prendre/apprendre/comprendre	-pris
Dire/écrire	-it
Découvrir/ouvrir/offrir/souffrir/etc	-ert

Irregular past participles :

Verb	Past Participle	Verb	Past Participle
Avoir	Eu	Boire	Bu
Être	Été	Connaître	Connu
Faire	Fait	Devoir	Dû
Mourir	Mort	Falloir	Fallu
Naître	Né	Lire	Lu
Rire	Ri	Pouvoir	Pu
Suivre	Suivi	Pleuvoir	Plu
Recevoir	Reçu	Savoir	Su
Tenir/obtenir	Tenu	Venir	Venu
Voir	Vu	Vouloir	Voulu

When do I use ÊTRE instead of AVOIR in passé composé?

AVOIR – with general verbs

ÊTRE – with verbs of motion or change of state:

★ Just remember DR (and) MRS VANDERTRAMPP! : ★

Verb	Past Participle (always agrees with subject when using ÊTRE!)
D evenir (to become)	Devenu(e)(s)
R evenir (to come back)	Revenu(e)(s)
M onter (to climb/mount)	Monté(e)(s)
R ester (to stay)	Resté(e)(s)
S ortir (to exit/go out)	Sorti(e)(s)
V enir (to come)	Venu(e)(s)
A ller (to go)	Allé(e)(s)
N âître (to be born)	Né(e)(s)
D escendre (to descend)	Descendu(e)(s)
E ntrer (to enter)	Entré(e)(s)
R entrer (to reenter/go back in)	Rentré(e)(s)
T omber (to fall)	Tombé(e)(s)
R etourner (to turn around)	Retourné(e)(s)
A rriver (to arrive)	Arrivé(e)(s)
M ourir (to die)	Mort(e)(s)
P artir (to leave)	Parti(e)(s)
P asser (to pass)	Passé(e)(s)

Examples :

J'ai mangé. = I ate.

Vous êtes allé(e). = You went.

C'est ton tour ! (Your turn!) :

- | | | Subject | AVOIR/ÊTRE ? | Past Participle |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. You (tu) fell ! | = | _____ | _____ | _____ ! |
| 2. She arrived yesterday. | = | _____ | _____ | _____ hier. |
| 3. I sang a beautiful song. | = | _____ | _____ | _____ une belle chanson. |
| 4. He worked at the store. | = | _____ | _____ | _____ au magasin. |
| 5. The dog barked (aboyer). | = | _____ | _____ | _____. |
| 6. My grandma cooked. | = | _____ | _____ | _____. |
| 7. When did they die? | = | Quand est-ce qu' | _____ | _____. |
| 8. We travelled to France. | = | _____ | _____ | _____ en France. |
| 9. I left the room. | = | _____ | _____ | _____ de la pièce. |
| 10. We stayed at home. | = | _____ | _____ | _____ à la maison. |