

Formation of Passé Composé

Passé composé is formed like this:
(avoir/être) + (past participle verb) =
passé composé
Always remember that avoir and être
must be conjugated in present tense for
passé composé.

Regular Participle Passé Endings:

ER - É

IR - I

RE - U

Verbes that use être as Auxiliary

Devenir Revenir

Monter Rester

Sortir Venir

Aller Naître

Descendre Entrer

Rentrer Tomber

Retourner Arriver

Mourir Partir

Note - Three Irregular Verbs

venir - venu

mourir - mort

naître - né

Accords - All DR MRS VANDERTRAMP
verbs need to agree with their subject

- Il est venu

- Elle est venue

- Ils sont venus

- Elles sont venues

Irregular past participle

avoir eu

être été

-ouvrir -ouvert

-mettre -mis

-prendre -pris

pouvoir pu

vouloir voulu

devoir dû

faire fait

voir vu

Passé Composé vs Imparfait

Passé Composé

Actions that were completed
J'ai fini mes devoirs. I finished my homework.

Expresses what happened a specific number of times
J'ai étudié lundi. I studied on (a specific) Monday.
Details what 'used to' happen on a regular basis
J'étudiais le lundi. I used to study on Mondays.

Imparfait

What was happening, with no indication of when or even if it ended
Je faisais mes devoirs. I was doing my homework.

Passé Composé vs Imparfait (cont)

A change in a state of being
J'ai été inspiré par ton succès. I was (became) inspired by your success.
Indicates an ongoing state
J'étais toujours inspiré par mes profs. I was always inspired by my teachers.

A change in a feeling of being
En ce moment, j'ai détesté l'école. At that moment, I hated school.
Indicates an ongoing feeling
J'aimais l'école. I liked school.

Interruption of some occurrence
... il a commencé à pleuvoir. ... it started raining
Describes what was happening before an interruption
J'étais à l'école quand ... I was at school when ...

Formation of Imparfait

Imparfait is formed like this:

- 1) Start with the 'nous' form of verb - ie: manger -> mangeons
- 2) Remove 'ons' from verb -> mange~~ons~~
- 3) Add imparfait ending -> Je mang**eais**

Imparfait Endings:

Je - ais
Tu - ais
Il/Elle/On - ait
Nous - ions
Vous - iez
Ils/Elles - aient

Irregular - Imparfait

Irregular verbs follow the same rules for the formation of the imperfect as do regular verbs. To form the imperfect, simply drop the -ons and add the imperfect endings given earlier:

Imparfait - Irregular Exceptions

-cer change -c to -ç	ie: avancer --> avançais, avançait
-ger insert a silent -e between -g and -a	ie: manger --> mangeais, mangeait

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