LE PASSÉ COMPOSÉ

THE PERFECT TENSE
Past Tense in English

When we talk about something we’ve done or something that has happened, we use a past tense.
Past Tense in English

I played tennis on Saturday.

We watched a film.
Past Tense in English

He **has eaten** the cookies.

They **have finished** their homework.
Past Tense in English

We can talk about the past using the present tense of the verb *to have* and the past participle of the main verb.
Past Tense in English

For example:

He has eaten the cookies.

They have finished their homework.
Past Tense in English

We can also say:

He *ate* the cookies.

They *finished* their homework.
Perfect Tense in French

The perfect tense in French is called the Passé Composé.
Perfect Tense in French

The perfect tense in French is also formed using the present tense of *avoir* (to have) and the past participle of the main verb.
Perfect Tense in French

– Il a mangé les biscuits.

This French sentence is the equivalent of both:

– He has eaten the biscuits.
– He ate the biscuits.
Forming the Passé Composé

To form the perfect tense, you need to know two things:

1. The present tense of *avoir*

2. How to form the *past participle* of a verb
Forming the Passé Composé

Avoir is called an auxiliary or helping verb because it "helps" form the perfect tense.
### Present tense of **avoir**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J’ai</td>
<td>I have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tu as</td>
<td>You (sing) have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Il/Elle a</td>
<td>He/She has</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nous avons</td>
<td>We have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vous avez</td>
<td>You (plur) have</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ils/Elles ont</td>
<td>They have</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to form the past participle

English past participles often end in -ed:

- played
- danced
- watched
How to form the past participle

- In French, verbs form their past participles in different ways:
  - jouer → joué
  - finir → fini
  - attendre → attendu
Past Participle Pattern

- For -er verbs; take off -er and add -é
Past Participle Pattern

- For –ir verbs:
  take off –ir
  and add –i
Past Participle Pattern

- For –re verbs:
  - take off –re
  - and add –u
Pratiquons!!

For –er verbs, take off –er and add –é

Parler

Parlé
Pratiquons!!

Manger
Mangé

For –er verbs, take off –er and add –é
Pratiquons!!

Dormir

Dormi

For –ir verbs, take off –ir and add –i
Pratiquons!!

Vendre

Vendu

For –re verbs, take off –re and add –u
Pratiquons!!

Danser

Dansé

For –er verbs, take off –er and add –é
Pratiquons!!

Perdre

Perdu

For –re verbs, take off –re and add –u
Pratiquons!!

Choisir

Choisi

For –ir verbs, take off –ir and add –i
Pratiquons!!

Répondre

Répondu

For –re verbs, take off –re and add –u
Pratiquons!!

Visiter

Visité

For –er verbs, take off –er and add –é
Pratiquons!!

Inviter

Invité

For –er verbs, take off –er and add –é
Pratiquons!!

Finir

Fini

For –ir verbs, take off –ir and add –i
Pratiquons!!

Regarder  

Regardé

For –er verbs, take off –er and add –é
Summary

- To form the perfect tense, you put together
  - The correct part of *avoir* in the present tense and
  - The *past participle* of the verb you are using
Test yourself!

- Je (chanter) au karaoké.
- J’ai chanté au karaoké.
Test yourself!

- Tu (promener) le chien.
- Tu as promené le chien.
Test yourself!

- Il (dormir) à l’hôtel.
- Il a dormi à l’hôtel.
Test yourself!

- Vous (étudier) pour l’examen de géographie.

- Vous avez étudié pour le test de géographie.
Test yourself!

- Elles (réussir) les examens.
- Elles **ont réussi** les examens.