THE PERFECT (PAST) TENSE

Nom:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Perfect Tense is a Past Tense

It is used for: completed actions in the past.

avoir

Yesterday **I watched** a film.

Hier **j’ai regardé** un film.

It is formed with the present tense of avoir + the past participle

J’ai mangé

Past participle

avoir

It is just like the English *I have eaten*.

Here is how you get the past participle:

er é ir i re u

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| J’ | ai | mangé |
| SUBJECT  Person doing the action | AVOIR  The auxiliary or helping verb  In the present | PAST PARTICIPLE  The main verb. It stays the same all the way through |

Now conjugate these verbs in the perfect tense

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **manger** | **finir** | **vendre** |
| J’\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | J’\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | J’\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| *I have eaten / I ate* | I have finished / I finished | I have sold / I sold |
| Tu \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Tu\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Tu\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| *You have eaten / you ate* | You have finished / you finished | You have sold / You sold |
| Il / elle\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Il / elle\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Il / elle\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| *He / she has eaten / He / she ate* | He has finished / He finished | He has sold / He sold |
| Nous\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Nous\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Nous\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| *We have eaten / we ate* | We have finished / we finished | We have sold / We sold |
| Vous\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Vous\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Vous\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| *You have eaten / you ate* | You have finished / you finished | You have sold / You sold |
| Ils / elles\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Ils / elles\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Ils / elles\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| *They have eaten / they ate* | They have finished / they finished | They have sold / They sold |

Now put the correct verb in the correct place in the box:

Vendre / finir / travailler / manger / répondre / regarder / jouer / attendre / laver / acheter / écouter / dormir / chercher / visiter / choisir / voyager

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Er verbs** | **Ir verbs** | **Re verbs** |
|  |  |  |
| To travel | To choose | To sell |
|  |  |  |
| To look for | To finish | To reply |
|  |  |  |
| To watch | To sleep | To wait |
|  |  |  |
| To visit | Image result for for sale sign cartoon |  |
|  |  |  |
| To wash |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| To buy |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| To listen |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

Now translate the following:

Ex 1:

1. I watched \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. He watched \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. We listened \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. She travelled \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. They (masc) bought \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. You (pl) looked for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. You (sing) visited \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. I finished \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
9. We slept \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
10. She sold \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
11. David waited \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
12. David and John replied\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

And now this:

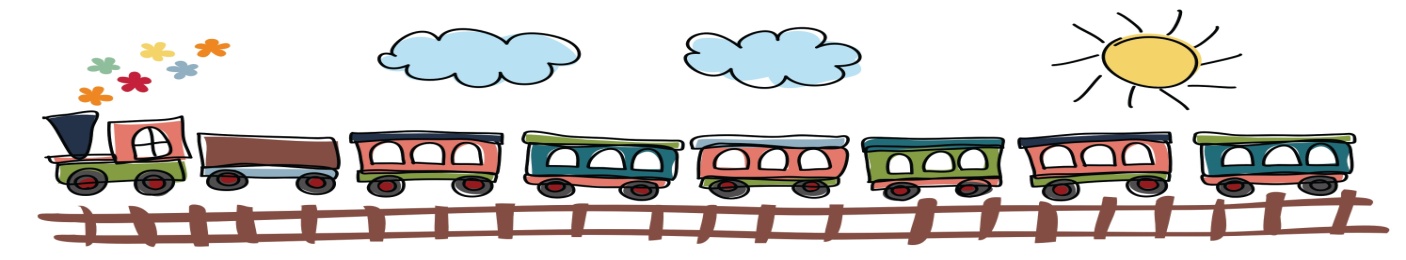
Ex 2:

1. Nous avons attendu le bus\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Ils ont regardé le film \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Nous avons répondu à la lettre \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Tu as visité le château \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Elle a fini ses devoirs \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. Vous avez vendu la maison\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. J’ai lavé la voiture \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. Aisha a choisi le film \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
9. Claude a dormi \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
10. David et Aisha ont cherché les clés \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Past tense time expressions

Re-write the correct time expression in English next to the correct French.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Hier |  | Last week |
| La semaine dernière |  | Two months ago |
| Il y a deux jours |  | Last year |
| Il y a deux mois |  | yesterday |
| Il y a trois ans |  | Three years ago |
| L’année dernière |  | When I was six |
| Quand j’avais six ans |  | Two days ago |
| Hier soir |  | Yesterday evening |

Now translate the following:

Ex 3.

1. Last week I watched a film at the cinema (au cinema).
2. Three years ago he sold the castle.
3. When I was four years old I visited Paris.
4. Yesterday evening I slept.
5. Two days ago, I waited for the train.

Now the irregulars – put the past participle in the correct box than translate the example

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| infinitif | Particpe passé | Example use | |
|  |  |
| écrire | écrit | I wrote | J’ai écrit |
| boire |  | I drank |  |
| prendre |  | I took |  |
| voir |  | I saw |  |
| lire |  | I read |  |
| faire |  | I did / made |  |
| dire |  | I said |  |
| être |  | I was |  |
| devoir |  | I had to |  |
| pouvoir |  | I was able |  |
| mettre |  | I put (on) |  |
| savoir |  | I knew |  |
| avoir |  | I had |  |
| recevoir |  | I received |  |
| croire |  | I thought |  |
| ouvrir |  | I opened |  |
| offrir |  | I gave |  |

été écrit eu ouvert offert

vu dit fallu pris

pu reçu lu fait

dû bu mis su

cru offert

And negative? The negation sandwich goes around the helping verb.

J’ai regardé un film.

Note that in the negative ‘un’ ‘une’ or ‘des’ should become ‘de’

Je n’ai pas regardé de film.

Try putting the following into the negative.

1. J’ai mangé une salade. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. J’ai acheté un manteau. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Elle a travaillé.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Harry a regardé un film au cinéma.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Ils ont nagé dans la piscine. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Vous avez fait de la lèche-vitrine.

Remember the following negatives work in exactly the same way :

ne…pas not

ne…que only

ne…jamais never

ne...rien nothing

ne...plus no longer

THE PERFECT TENSE WITH ÊTRE

So now you know the perfect tense…well nearly.

There are 14 verbs which have a catch.

1. They don’t use ***avoir*** as the helping verb. They use ***être***.
2. They need to agree.

Je \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Tu \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Il / elle / on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nous \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Vous \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ils / elles \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

So first conjugate être

as you would in the present.

être

Let’s take the verb ‘aller’ (to go). This is one of the verbs that take être in the past tense. We want to say ‘I went.’

So: J’ai allé

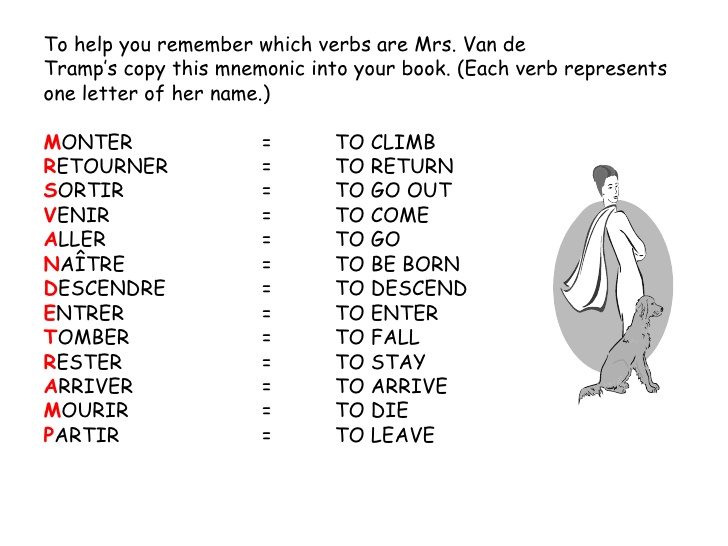
Je **suis** allé

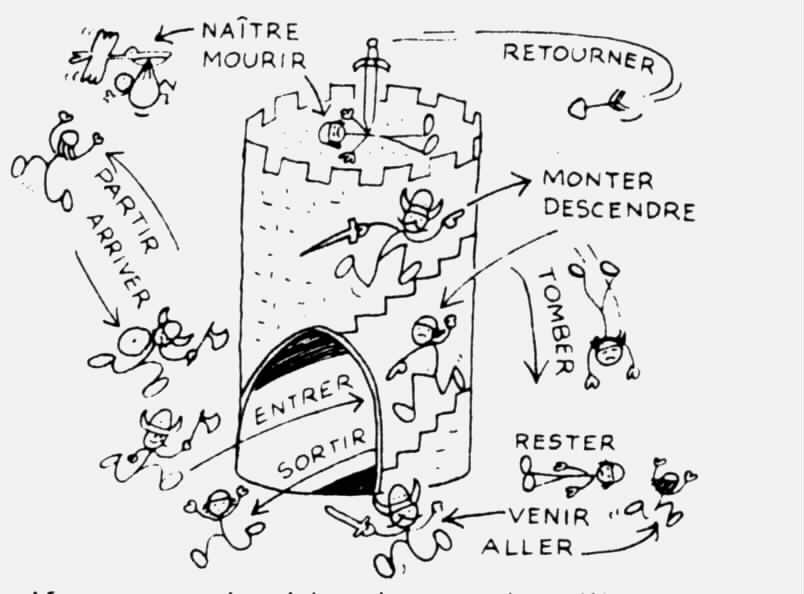
So how would you write: ‘He went’ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The following are the verbs that take **être** instead of avoir.

There are different ways to remember them.

You can try Mrs Vandetramp…



Or you can learn the in opposites as castle verbs: 

So now try translating the following:

venir (to come) venu

revenir (to come back) revenu

devenir (to become) devenu

mourir (to die) mort

naître (to be born) né

1. He entered \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. He left \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. He went up / got on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. He fell \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. He went out \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. He stayed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. He was born \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. He died \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
9. He came \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
10. He became \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Here’s the catch. All verbs that take être have to agree in number and gender.

Look at the example and work out what we are doing in terms of grammar:

Nous sommes allées

Nous sommes allés

Je suis allée

Je suis allé



Yes. For feminine singular we add ‘e’ masculine plural ‘s’ and feminine plural ‘es’ to the past participle.

Il est monté Elle est montée Ils sont montés Elles sont montées

Now look at the list of all the être verbs with their possible agreements:

**IF THEY ARE NOT ON THIS LIST USE AVOIR**

**REGULAR ER IR RE VERBS**

Monter (to go up / get on) montées (went up)

Descendre (to go down / get off) descendues (went down)

Entrer (to enter) entrées (entered)

Sortir (to exit) sorties (went out)

Partir (to leave) parties (left)

Retourner (to return) retournées (returned)

Aller (to go) allées (went)

Tomber (to fall) tombées (fell)

Rester (to stay) restées (stayed)

**IRRREGULAR VERBS**

Venir (to come) venues (came)

Revenir (to come back) revenues (came back)

Devenir (to become) devenues (became)

Mourir (to die) mortes (died)

Naître (to be born) nées (was born)

Using the box of verbs and possible agreements for help, translate the following:

1. Je suis monté. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Elle est descendue. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Elles sont descendues. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Vous êtes partis. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Je suis montée. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. Nous sommes nées. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. Elizabeth est sortie. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. Elizabeth et Arthur sont sortis. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

And now into French :

1. Dave went. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. I (fem) went. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. We (masc) entered. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. She went up. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. They (fem) became \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. David and Jemima fell. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. You (fem pl) came back. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_