Structure de la langue

Passé composé with être

To form the **passé composé** of certain verbs, you use a present tense form of the helping verb **être** and the past participle of the main verb.

Monsieur, vous **êtes allé** à Sir, you went to the city hall? l'hôtel de ville?

(helping verb) (past participle of **aller**)



Madame Solange a dû attendre le train. Il est arrivé en avance ou en retard?

To form the past participle of verbs that use **être** as the helping verb in the **passé composé**, follow the same rules that you learned in **Leçon B**: drop the infinitive ending and add **-é** for **-er** verbs, **-i** for **-ir** verbs, and **-u** for **-re** verbs. For example, for the verb **aller**, which is regular in the **passé composé**, drop the **-er** of the infinitive and add an **é**: **aller** → **allé**.

For verbs conjugated with **être** in the **passé composé**, the past participle of the verb agrees in gender (masculine or feminine) and in number (singular or plural) with the subject:

- for a masculine singular subject, add nothing to the past participle.
- for a masculine plural subject, add -s.
- for a feminine singular subject, add -e.
- · for a feminine plural subject, add -es.

	aller
je suis allé(e)	nous sommes allé(e)s
tu es allé(e)	vous êtes allé(e)(s)
il est allé elle est allée on est allé	ils sont allés elles sont allées



Virginie, tu **es allée** au restaurant? Non, je **suis allée** au musée.

Virginie, did you go to the restaurant? No, I went to the museum.

partir		descendre		
je suis parti(e)	nous sommes parti(e)s	je suis descendu(e)	nous sommes descendu(e)s	
tu es parti(e)	vous êtes parti(e) (s)	tu es descendu(e)	vous êtes descendu(e) (s)	
il est parti elle est partie on est parti	ils sont partis elles sont parties	il est descendu elle est descendue on est descendu	ils sont descend <mark>us</mark> elles sont descend <mark>ues</mark>	

Infinitive	Past Participle	Meaning
aller (to go)	allé	went
arriver (to arrive)	arriv é	arrived
entrer (to enter)	entr é	entered
monter (to go up, to get in/on)	monté	went up, got in/on
rentrer (to come home, to return, to come back)	rentr é	came home, returned, came back
rester (to stay, remain)	rest é	stayed, remained
retourner (to return)	retourn é	returned
partir (to leave)	parti	left
sortir (to go out)	sorti	went out
descendre (to go down, to get off)	descendu	went down, got off
But:		
venir (to come)	ven u	came
revenir (to come back, to return)	reven u	came back, returned
devenir (to become)	devenu	became

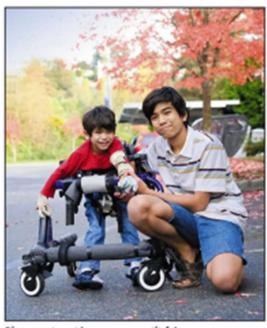
To make a negative sentence in the passé composé, put ne (n') before the form of être and pas after it.

Les filles **ne** sont **pas** allées au musée Grévin. The girls didn't go to the Grévin museum.

To ask a question using inversion in the passé composé, put the subject pronoun after the form of être and attach the pronoun to the helping verb with a hyphen.

Awa est-elle partie ce matin?

Did Awa leave this morning?



Pierre est resté avec son petit frère.

Comparaisons

Does English ever use a helping verb to express an action that took place in the past?

We have gone to the convenience store. Justin has bought a snack. We did get back on time.





Les jeunes français apprennent les verbes avec un tableau de conjugaison. Vous pouvez en regarder en ligne, ou faire le vôtre avec des couleurs et des visuels de votre choix.

Recherche: tableau de conjugaison

IMPORTANT NOTE: there are 17 verbs that will use ETRE instead of AVOIR to form the passé composé.