

The Past Tense - Passé Composé

Le passé composé	The Perfect (Past) Tense
Talking about what (has) happened in the past:	
The passé composé is formed in French using 3 parts :	
Subject + helping verb + past participle	
<i>Par exemple :</i>	
J'ai visité = I (have)visited	
Usually the “helping” or “auxiliary verb is avoir :	
j'ai (I have) nous avons (we have) tu as (you have) vous avez (you pl. have) il/elle/on a ils/ elles ont (he, she, it has) (they have)	
For 16 special verbs , the helping verb is “ être ”:	
je suis nous sommes tu es vous êtes il/elle/on est ils/ elles sont	
<i>par exemple : je suis allé(e) = I went/ I have gone</i>	
Here are the “Special 16”:	
aller, venir monter, descendre retourner, revenir naître, mourir arriver, partir rester, tomber entrer, sortir devenir, rentrer	
You can also memorize them using “DR & MRS VAN DER TRAMP” or by learning them in pairs of opposites. <i>Ask your teacher!!</i>	

When using **être** as the helping verb, don't forget to make your past participle agree, just like an adjective: *Par exemple*

Il est allé He went/ has gone

Elle est allée She went/ has gone

Elles sont allées They (f) went/ have gone