INTRODUCTION TO THE PAST TENSE: PAST PARTICIPLES
Eleventh lesson – Onzième leçon
Introduction

1. Definition

2. Past participles of –er verbs: the first group
   2.1 The past tense of –er verbs

3. Past participles of –ir verbs: the second group
   3.1 The past tense of –ir verbs

4. Past participles of –re verbs: the third group
   4.1 The past tense of –re verbs

5. Irregular past participles
INTRODUCTION

- To explain the *passé composé*, the lesson is split into three sections:

  1. This first section presents a definition of the compound past tense and introduces the main forms of past participles.
2. The second presents the compound tense of verbs conjugated with the helping (auxiliary) verb *avoir* (to have).

- This category of verbs is the largest.
3. The third one presents the compound tense of verbs conjugated with the helping (auxiliary) verb *être* (to be).

This category of verbs includes all pronominal verbs and verbs that express movement.
1. DEFINITION

- The *passé composé* is the most common past tense in French. It is used to refer to actions completed in the past.

- It has two equivalents in English. The use of one or the other depends on the context.
  - *J’ai dansé.*
  - → *I danced/ I have danced*
1. DEFINITION

- This tense is composed of two elements: the present tense of an auxiliary verb (either avoir or être), followed by a past participle.

- Passé composé

  =

  auxiliary verb (in the present tense) + past participle (main verb)
1. DEFINITION

- **Most verbs** are conjugated with **avoir**. Verbs that indicate a kind of **movement**

- All **pronominal verbs** are conjugated with **être**
2. PAST PARTICIPLES OF –ER VERBS: THE FIRST GROUP

- Past participles can be regular or irregular.
  
  1. Past participles of the first group

- For regular verbs with an infinitive in –er, drop –er and add –é.
  
  - Étudier ➔ étudié (same pronunciation)
2.1 THE PAST TENSE OF –ER VERBS

- Étudier- to study

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J’ai étudié</td>
<td>Nous avons étudié</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tu as étudié</td>
<td>Vous avez étudié</td>
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<tr>
<td>Il/elle/on a étudié</td>
<td>Ils/elles ont étudié</td>
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2.1 THE PAST TENSE OF –ER VERBS

- *Hier soir, j’ai étudié le français*
- *Last night, I studied French.*

- More verbs like *étudier:*
  - *Rêver* to dream
  - *Penser* to think
  - *Détester* to hate
  - *Regarder* to watch
  - *Voyager* to travel
3. Past participles of –ir verbs: the second group

2. To obtain a past participles of the –ir, drop the –ir ending and add –i.

- \textit{Finir} \rightarrow \textit{fini}
3.1 THE PAST TENSE OF –IR VERBS

- **Finir** – *to finish*

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<td>J’ai fini</td>
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3.1 THE PAST TENSE OF –IR VERBS

- Hier soir, j’ai fini mon devoir de français
- Last night, I finished my French homework

More verbs like finir:

- Bénir to bless
- Guérir to heal/cure/recover
- Maigrir to lose weight
- Grossir to put on weight
- Réussir to succeed
4. **The past participles of –re verbs:** the third group

3. To obtain the past participles of a –re verb, **drop –re and add –u.**

   - *Perdre ➔ perdu (to loose)*
4.1 THE PAST TENSE OF –RE VERB

- Perdre – *to loose*

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<td>J’ai perdu</td>
<td>Nous avons perdu</td>
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<td>Tu as perdu</td>
<td>Vous avez perdu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Il/elle/on a perdu</td>
<td>Ils/elles ont perdu</td>
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</table>
4.1 THE PAST TENSE OF –RE VERBS

- Ce matin, j’ai perdu mon devoir de français
- This morning, I lost my French homework

Other verbs like perdre:

- **Attendre** to wait for
- **Descendre** to descend
- **Entendre** to hear
- **Vendre** to sell
- **Répondre** to answer
5. Irregular past participles

4. Irregular past participles

- Many verbs, however, have *irregular past participles*.

- The past participles of many common irregular verbs *which have « avoir » as an auxiliary* are listed on the next slide.
## 5. Irregular Past Participles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infinitive</th>
<th>Past participle</th>
<th>Infinitive</th>
<th>Past participle</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Être (to be)</td>
<td>été</td>
<td>Connaître (to know)</td>
<td>connu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suivre (to follow)</td>
<td>suivi</td>
<td>Croire (to believe)</td>
<td>cru</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mettre (to put)</td>
<td>mis</td>
<td>Devoir (to have to)</td>
<td>dû</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prendre (to take)</td>
<td>pris</td>
<td>Lire (to read)</td>
<td>lu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dire (to tell)</td>
<td>dit</td>
<td>Pouvoir (to be able to)</td>
<td>pu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Écrire (to write)</td>
<td>écrit</td>
<td>Recevoir (to receive)</td>
<td>reçu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faire (to do)</td>
<td>fait</td>
<td>Savoir (to know)</td>
<td>su</td>
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<td>Ouvrir (to open)</td>
<td>ouvert</td>
<td>Tenir (to hold)</td>
<td>tenu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avoir (to have)</td>
<td>eu</td>
<td>Voir (to see)</td>
<td>vu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boire (to drink)</td>
<td>bu</td>
<td>Vouloir (to want)</td>
<td>voulu</td>
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C’est tout pour aujourd’hui!

Au revoir!

Merci!