

LE PASSÉ COMPOSÉ (1)

PAST COMPOUND (1st PART)

INTRODUCTION

The « PASSÉ COMPOSÉ » tense
is the one that you are going to use **most often**.
when expressing yourself in the PAST.

You are going to see, it is easy :
you simply have to **follow the 3 STEPS** we will see in this lesson.
But for now let's have an overall look at the steps we just mentioned

3 STEPS TO FOLLOW

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3
CHOOSE between	CHOOSE an ending	AGREEMENT
« ÊTRE » and « AVOIR »	é - u - i - is - it	e / s



In this lesson we are going to **focus on the STEP 1**.

QUICK REMINDER

For the **STEP 1** we will need to choose between **2 VERBS** that we already learned:

the verb « **ÊTRE** » (**to be**) and the verb « **AVOIR** » (**to have**) in the **present tense**.

Let's review them a bit :

« ÊTRE » (TO BE) IN THE PRESENT TENSE

SUBJECT	VERB	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
Je	suis	[je su i]	I am
Tu	es	[tu è]	You (casual) are
Il / Elle	est	[i lè]	He / She is
Nous	sommes	[nou sô m]	We are
Vous	êtes	[vou zè t]	You (formal / group) are
Ils / Elles	sont	[i l son]	They are

« AVOIR » (TO HAVE) IN THE PRESENT TENSE

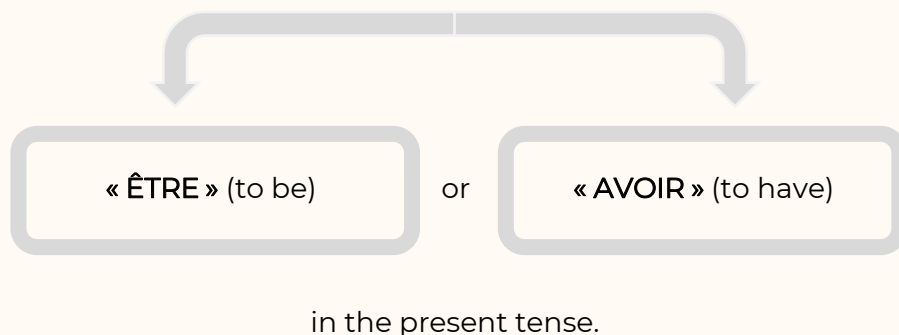
SUBJECT	VERB	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
J'	ai	[jè]	I have
Tu	as	[tu a]	You (casual) have
Il / Elle	a	[i la]	He / She has
Nous	avons	[nou za von]	We have
Vous	avez	[vou za vé]	You (formal / group) have
Ils / Elles	ont	[i l zon]	They have

STEP 1 : CHOOSING BETWEEN « ÊTRE » AND « AVOIR »

Now we can have a look at the STEP 1 in detail :

Every time you want to conjugate a VERB in the **PASSÉ COMPOSÉ** tense,

Step 1 is to **choose whether to combine it with :**



How do you know **whether to use « ÊTRE » or « AVOIR »** ?

It is very simple :

There is a very short **list of verbs** that you have to combine with « ÊTRE »

and all the other verbs will be combined with « AVOIR ».

LIST OF THE VERBS YOU SHOULD COMBINE WITH « ÊTRE »

15 VERBS

Aller	[a lé]	To go
Venir	[ve ni r]	To come
Passer	[pa sé]	To pass by
Arriver	[a ri vé]	To arrive
Rester	[rè s té]	To stay
Partir	[pa r ti r]	To leave
Retourner	[re tour né]	To return
Entrer	[an tré]	To enter
Sortir	[sô r ti r]	To go out
Monter	[mon té]	To go up
Descendre	[dè san dr]	To go down
Tomber	[ton bé]	To fall
Naitre	[nè t r]	To be born
Devenir	[de ve ni r]	To become
Mourir	[mou ri r]	To die

HOW TO MEMORIZE THEM?

Try to visualize **a house**.

Most of the verbs on the list are used to describe an action where someone goes into / out of / up / down / around the **house**.

For instance :

To enter / To go out

To go up / To go down

To arrive / To leave

...

If the verb you want to conjugate in the « **PASSÉ COMPOSÉ** » tense doesn't belong to the list above, then simply combine it with the verb « **AVOIR** » (to have) instead.

EXAMPLE 1

For our first example, we are going to use the verb :

« ENTRER » (To enter)

We want to conjugate it in the **PASSÉ COMPOSÉ** tense,
in order to say : « I entered. »

So, first, we must choose whether to combine it with « ÊTRE » or « AVOIR ».

The verb « ENTRER » (to enter) actually belongs to the **list of 15 verbs**
that you have to combine with « ÊTRE ».

STEP 1

PRONOUN	« ÊTRE »	« AVOIR »	
Je	suis	ai	entré
[je]	[su i]	[è]	[an tré]

ANSWER :

« I entered » : = Je **suis** entré.

EXAMPLE 2

For our second example, we are going to use the verb :

« MANGER » (To eat)

We want to conjugate it in the **PASSÉ COMPOSÉ** tense,
in order to say : « I ate. »

So, first, we must choose whether to combine it with « ÊTRE » or « AVOIR »

The verb « MANGER » (to eat) **DOESN'T BELONG** to the **list of 15 verbs**
that you have to combine with « ÊTRE ».

Therefore, we should combine it with « AVOIR »

STEP 1			
PRONOUN	« ÊTRE »	« AVOIR »	
J'	suis	ai	mangé
[j]	[su i]	[è]	[man jé]

ANSWER :

« I ate » : = J'**ai** mangé.

CONCLUSION

Now you know how to choose between « ÊTRE » and « AVOIR »
in the **PASSÉ COMPOSÉ** tense,

This is the most important step, so make sure **to feel comfortable with it.**

Memorize these 15 verbs,
and in the next lesson we are going to talk specifically about the STEP 2

Félicitations!

[fé li si ta si on]

Congratulations!

You are almost there !