

## VERB PASSE COMPOSE

Verbs in the passé compose are formed by putting together a helping verb (etre or avoir) conjugated in the present tense + past participle.

We talk of passé compose when we are discussing past events, simply put past tense. These verbs that aids in the composition of passé compose are called auxiliary verbs (etre and avoir).

These passé compose is a compound tense, meaning you need two components to conjugate a verb namely

- a. A helping verb (etre or avoir) which are referred to as auxiliary verbs conjugated in the present tense.
- b. The past participle of the verb (the action verb) you want to conjugate.

The first step to conjugating verbs in the passé compose is to find out what helping verb it uses: etre or avoir.

### AVOIR

Avoir (to have) is the simplest helping verb. If you ever find yourself in the middle of a conversation wondering whether to use avoir or etre to conjugate in the passé compose, choose avoir. It's the simplest helping verb and is likely to be the one you need.

Once you know the verb you want to conjugate in the passé compose uses "avoir", you simply need to conjugate avoir in the present tense and add the past participle. E.g of avoir

CONJUGATION	TRANSLATION
J'ai	I have
Tu as	You have
Il/elle/on a	He/she/it has

Nous avons	We have
Vous avez	You have
Ils/ elles ont	They have

## ETRE

One feature of the auxiliary verb Etre (to be) is that when you use it, it must agree in gender and number. E. g Naitre (to be born) = je suis ne, tu es ne, il est ne, elle est nee, nous sommes nes, vous etes nes, ils sont nes, ells sont nees etc

The following verbs use etre as auxiliary

Descendre

Sortir

Arriver

Entrer

Aller etc

Once you know the verb you want to conjugate in the passé compose uses “etre” in the present tense. E.G

CONJUGATION	TRANSLATION
Je suis	I am
Tu es	You are
Il/elle/on est	He/she/it is
Nous sommes	We are
Vous etes	You are

Ils/ elles sont	They are
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### **REFLECTIVE VERBS**

Passé compose for all reflective verbs are the auxiliary verb *etre*. All verbs in French that carries “*se*” behind the infinitive are reflective in French. E.g *s’habiller, se dormir, se reveiller*.

Please, use your French dictionary for further reading.