

Pluperfect Tense

The pluperfect tense in French, also known as the "plus-que-parfait," is formed by combining the imperfect tense of either avoir or être (depending on the verb) with the past participle of the main verb. In essence, it's the imperfect tense of "have" or "be" followed by the past participle.

Here's a breakdown:

1. Choose the auxiliary verb:

- Most verbs use avoir as the auxiliary verb.
- Reflexive verbs and a specific group of verbs (often remembered by the acronym DR & MRS VANDERTRAMP) use être.

2. Conjugate the auxiliary verb in the imperfect tense:

- This means using the imperfect forms of avoir (j'avais, tu avais, il/elle/on avait, nous avions, vous aviez, ils/elles avaient) or être (j'étais, tu étais, il/elle/on était, nous étions, vous étiez, ils/elles étaient).

3. Add the past participle of the main verb:

- For regular verbs: -er verbs become -é, -ir verbs become -i, and -re verbs become -u.
- There are irregular past participles that need to be memorized.

Example:

- To say "I had eaten," you would use the imperfect of avoir (j'avais) and the past participle of manger (mangé), resulting in: "J'avais mangé".
- To say "She had gone," you would use the imperfect of être (elle était) and the past participle of aller (allé), resulting in: "Elle était allée".