Chapter 6: Qu'est-ce qui s'est passé?: 6-7 Structures

Book Title: Atelier

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6-7 Structures

6-7a Structure 6.1

Talking about what happened Le passé composé avec avoir

The **passé composé** (compound past) is used to talk about past events. Its English equivalent depends on the context.

J'ai vu un bon film.

I saw a good movie.
I have seen a good movie.
I did see a good movie.

Formation

It has two parts: an auxiliary verb, **l'auxiliaire**, and a past participle, **le participe passé**. The verb **avoir** is the most common auxiliary.

j'ai voyagé nous avons voyagé
tu as voyagé vous avez voyagé
il/elle/on a voyagé ils/elles ont voyagé

Regular past participle endings:

-er verbs take -é	parler	\rightarrow	parlé	
-ir verbs take -i:	finir	\rightarrow	fini	
-re verbs take -u:	perdre	\rightarrow	perdu	

Some irregular past participles:

infinitive	past participle	infinitive	past participle
avoir	eu	lire	lu

boire	bu	pleuvoir	plu
devoir	dû	prendre	pris
être	été	recevoir	reçu
faire	fait	voir	vu

Usage

- **Negative:** Place **ne... pas** around the auxiliary verb; then add the past participle.

 Je **n'**ai **pas** trouvé la clé.
- **Questions:** Use intonation, **est-ce que,** or inversion. In the case of inversion questions, invert the pronoun and the auxiliary.

Tu as trouvé la clé?
Est-ce que tu as trouvé la clé?
As-tu trouvé la clé?

Did you find the key?

Common expressions

yesterday morning / afternoon / evening	
this morning / this afternoon /this evening	
last weekend / last month	
last week	
[time] agoa	
a year ago	
two days ago	
a long time ago	
	afternoon / evening this morning / this afternoon /this evening last weekend / last month last week [time] agoa a year ago two days ago

La semaine dernière, j'ai vu un vieil ami.

Last week I saw an old friend.

J'ai commencé mes études il y a un an.

I started my studies a year ago.

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