

YOU MEAN I HAVE TO KNOW THIS?

VOL 2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PASSÉ COMPOSÉ

Passé composé with avoir	1
The big question is:	1
Not difficult, is it?	1
Negatives	2
Irregular verbs	2
<i>Exercices - Passé composé</i>	4
Passé composé with être	8
MRS VANDERTAMP	10
<i>Exercices - Passé composé with être</i>	11
- <i>Subject pronouns</i>	12
- <i>Passé Composé with être</i>	13
- <i>Passé Composé with avoir and être</i>	15
- <i>Passé composé</i>	17
Questions with inversion	19
<i>Exercices - Passé composé: questions with inversion</i>	20

IMPARFAIT

The Imparfait is...	22
Where are the irregular verbs?	23
Here's a reminder	23
But, an exception	23
<i>Exercices - Imparfait</i>	24
Passé composé and imparfait	25
Passé composé	25
Imparfait	25
A few hints...	26
<i>Exercices - Passé composé ou imparfait?</i>	28

PLUS-QUE-PARFAIT

About plus-que-parfait	32
OK. Where are the problems?	33
<i>Exercices - Plus-que-parfait</i>	35
Reported speech	38
<i>Exercices - Reported speech</i>	39
- <i>Plus-que-parfait</i>	41
- <i>Passé composé, imparfait, plus-que-parfait?</i>	43

TRANSITIVE

What's with this "transitive"?	45
However, five interesting verbs	46
Now for two exceptions to the rules!	47
<i>Exercices - Transitive and intransitive verbs</i>	48

ANSWERS	50
----------------	----

Here are some odd-looking ones: can you form the imparfait of the verbs *rire*, *étudier* and *oublier* in the *nous* and *vous* forms? Yes, that's right:

nous riions	vous riiez
nous étudiiions	vous étudiiiez
nous oubliions	vous oubliiez

Because the stem ends in 'i' and the ending begins with 'i', you have a double vowel. Two 'i's are always useful, especially if you want to see properly. (Where does he get these jokes?)

It can't be that easy! Where are the irregular verbs?

Believe it or not, the imparfait has only one irregular formation - *être*.

j'ét - ais
 tu ét - ais
 il ét - ait
 elle ét - ait
 nous ét - ions
 vous ét - iez
 ils ét - aient
 elles ét - aient



Here's a reminder:

- a) remember the rules about the present tense of *-cer* and *-ger* verbs?
 They apply also to the imparfait:

je commençais	elle mangeait
---------------	---------------

But the *nous* and *vous* forms don't change because the following vowel - 'i' in this case - softens the 'c' and 'g' already.

nous commencions	vous mangiez
------------------	--------------

- b) What about the stem change verbs like *acheter*, *lever*, *mener* etc.?

Well, you remember that the stem changes only if the ending is unpronounced. In the case of the imparfait, all the endings are pronounced, so there's no change!

However,

five of the verbs conjugated with *être* can become transitive, take direct objects and, of course, mean something rather different. Let's look at them. Here are some examples:



Il sort un stylo.

He takes out a pen.

Elle sort un mouchoir.

She takes out a handkerchief.

Je monte les valises.

I take up the suitcases.

Il descend les livres.

He brings down the books.

Nous rentrons la voiture.

We put the car away.

Il retourne le document.

He turns the document over.

Now, what happens when these verbs are put into the *passé composé*?

We have said that no verb conjugated with *être* can have a direct object. So, if these verbs are to have a direct object, they must be conjugated with... you guessed it: **avoir!**

Study these examples:

Il a sorti un mouchoir.

He took out a handkerchief.

Elle a descendu trois livres.

She took down three books.

J'ai monté les valises.

I took up (carried up) the suitcases.

Il a rentré la voiture au garage.

He put the car away in the garage.

Elle a retourné l'omelette.

She turned the omelette over.

passer is similarly conjugated:

Il a passé un examen.

He wrote an exam. (verb + direct object)

Elle a passé le sel.

She passed the salt. (verb+ direct object)

But, when the verb means to "pass by", it doesn't have a direct object and so is conjugated in the *passé composé* with *être*:

Ils sont passés devant la maison.

They passed by the house.

