

## The Past Participle

The past participle in French has a different ending for each conjugation.

- -Er verbs change the -er of the infinitive to é.
- -Ir verbs change the -ir of the infinitive to i.
- -Re verbs change the -re of the infinitive to u.

INFINITIVE	PAST PARTICIPLE	USUAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF PAST PARTICIPLE
<del>parler</del>	parlé	spoken
<del>marcher</del>	marché	walked
finir	fini	finished
choisir	choisi	chosen
vendre	vendu	sold
interrompre	interrompu	interrupted

Many common verbs have irregular past participles. As in English, these must be memorized.

INFINITIVE	PAST PARTICIPLE	meaning of the infinitive of verb.
1 apprendre	appris	learn
atteindre	atteint	reach
avoir	eu	have
boire	bu	drink
1 comprendre	compris	understand
conduire	conduit	drive
connaître	connu	experience, to be acquainted
construire	construit	build
courir	couru	run
2 couvrir	couvert	cover
craindre	craint	fear, be afraid
croire	cru	believe
cuire	cuit	cook
2 découvrir	découvert	discover
devoir	dû	have to, must
dire	dit	say
écrire	écrit	write
être	été	be
faire	fait	make, do
instruire	instruit	instruct
joindre	joint	join
lire	lu	read
mettre	mis	put
2 ouvrir	ouvert	open
paraître	paru	appear
peindre	peint	paint
pouvoir	pu	can, be able
1 prendre	pris	take
produire	produit	produce
recevoir	reçu	receive, get
savoir	su	know
souffrir	souffert	suffer
suivre	suivi	follow
tenir	tenu	hold
venir	venu	come
vivre	vécu	live
voir	vu	see
vouloir	voulu	want

There are patterns in the irregular forms of past participles in French. Compounds of irregular verbs show the same irregularity in the past participle. For example, the following list shows two compounds of *prendre*.

	INFINITIVE	PAST PARTICIPLE	
mean	<i>prendre</i>	<i>pris</i>	<u><i>prendre</i></u>
take	<i>apprendre</i>	<i>appris</i>	
learn	<i>comprendre</i>	<i>compris</i>	
understand			

Most verbs ending in *-uire* have a past participle ending in *-uit*.

	INFINITIVE	PAST PARTICIPLE	
drive	<i>conduire</i>	<i>conduit</i>	<u><i>uire</i></u>
instruct	<i>instruire</i>	<i>instruit</i>	

However, the past participle of *nuire* is *nui*.

Most verbs ending in *-indre* have a past participle ending in *-int*.

	INFINITIVE	PAST PARTICIPLE	
	<i>craindre</i>	<i>craint</i>	<u><i>indre</i></u>
	<i>joindre</i>	<i>joint</i>	
	<i>peindre</i>	<i>peint</i>	

Verbs ending in *-cevoir* replace *-cevoir* with *-çu* to form the past participle.

	INFINITIVE	PAST PARTICIPLE			
deceive	<i>décevoir</i>	<i>déçu</i>	<u><i>oir</i></u>	<i>vouloir</i>	<i>voulu</i>
disappoint	<i>recevoir</i>	<i>reçu</i>		<i>voir</i>	<i>vu</i>

Most verbs ending in *-aître* replace *-aître* with *-u* to form the past participle.

	INFINITIVE	PAST PARTICIPLE	
	<i>connaître</i>	<i>connu</i>	<u><i>aître</i></u>
	<i>paraître</i>	<i>paru</i>	

*Naître* and *renaître*, however, do not follow this pattern.

	INFINITIVE	PAST PARTICIPLE	
	<i>naître</i>	<i>né</i>	<i>to be born</i>
	<i>renaître</i>	<i>rené</i>	

Other irregular past participles are seen in *il a plu* *it rained* and the *passé composé* of *il y a*, which is *il y a eu*.

Write the past participle for each of the following verbs.

1. *surprendre* \_\_\_\_\_
2. *plaindre* \_\_\_\_\_
3. *attendre* \_\_\_\_\_
4. *atteindre* \_\_\_\_\_
5. *introduire* \_\_\_\_\_
6. *décevoir* \_\_\_\_\_
7. *recouvrir* \_\_\_\_\_
8. *promettre* \_\_\_\_\_
9. *déduire* \_\_\_\_\_
10. *apparaître* \_\_\_\_\_
11. *relire* \_\_\_\_\_
12. *craindre* \_\_\_\_\_