

2B.1

The *passé composé* and *imparfait* of reflexive verbs

vhlcentral

Point de départ In **Leçon 2A**, you learned to form the present tense and command forms of reflexive verbs. You will now learn how to form the **passé composé** and **imparfait** of reflexive verbs.



- Use the auxiliary verb **être** with all reflexive verbs in the **passé composé**, and place the reflexive pronoun before it.

Je **me suis fait** mal hier, pendant la randonnée.
I hurt myself during the hike yesterday.

Où est-ce que tu **t'es blessé**?
Where did you hurt yourself?

Il **s'est lavé** les mains avant de prendre le médicament.
He washed his hands before taking the medicine.

Vous **vous êtes trompé**?
Did you make a mistake?

- If the verb is not followed by a direct object, such as a body part, the past participle generally agrees with the subject in gender and number.

SUBJECT PAST PARTICIPLE
L'infirmier et le médecin **se sont disputés**.
The nurse and the doctor argued.

SUBJECT PAST PARTICIPLE
Elle **s'est mise** en colère.
She became angry.

- If the verb is followed by a direct object, the past participle does not agree with the subject.

PAST PARTICIPLE DIRECT OBJECT
Régine **s'est foulé** les deux chevilles.
Régine twisted both ankles.

PAST PARTICIPLE DIRECT OBJECT
Ils **se sont cassé** les bras.
They broke their arms.

Vérifiez

- To make a reflexive verb negative in the **passé composé**, place **ne** before the reflexive pronoun and **pas** after the auxiliary verb.

Elles **ne se sont pas** mises en colère.
They didn't get angry.

Je **ne me suis pas** rasé ce matin.
I didn't shave this morning.

Nous **ne nous sommes pas** sentis mieux.
We didn't feel better.

Tu **ne t'es pas** coiffée.
You didn't do your hair.

Boîte à outils

The past participles of a few reflexive verbs like **se faire mal** and **se rendre compte** don't agree with the subject even though no direct object follows. They are exceptions to the rule.