**The Passé Composé with Avoir**

1. Using “avoir” as the helping verb is a logical choice in a tense that expresses an action that has occurred. Although English usage often omits the use of “have” when it is implied (You may say, “I lost my keys” and not, “I have lost my keys”), in French, you must always use the helping verb**:**

**J'ai couru au parc. = I ran to the park.**

1. To form the passé composé of verbs using avoir, conjugate avoir in the present tense:

(j'ai, tu as, il a, nous avons, vous avez, ils ont) and add the past participle of the verb expressing the action.

1. **How to form the past participle (the second verb)**
2. **-ar verbs: drop the r, and add é**

Manger – mange

Parler – parlé

1. **-ir verbs: drop the r**

Finir – fini

Choisir – choisi

**c) irregular verbs: (the only ones you need to know for the test, but there are many more)**

Avoir - eu

Être – été

Faire – fait

Boire – bu

Courir – couru

Pleuvoir - plu

Prendre – pris

Comprendre – compris

Surpendre – surprise

Apprendre – appris

1. **Put the words together this way**: subject + helping verb (usually avoir) + past participle.

J’ai mangé. = I ate, or I have eaten.

1. The passé composé, a compound past tense, is formed by combining two elements: when (the action has taken place and, therefore, requires the helping verb avoir) and what (the action that has happened and, therefore, requires the past participle of the regular or irregular verb showing the particular action).

**Here are some examples of the passé composé.**

Elle a expliqué son problème. (She explained her problem.)

Ils ont réussi. (They succeeded.)

J'ai entendu les nouvelles. (I heard the news.)

1. **Forming the negative in the passé composé with avoir**

In a negative sentence in the passé composé, ne precedes the helping verb, and the negative word (pas, rien, jamais, and so on follows it:

Je n'ai rien préparé. (I didn't prepare anything.)

Nous n'avons pas fini le travail. (We didn't finish the work.)

Il n'a jamais répondu à la lettre. (He never answered the letter.)

1. **Questions in the passé composé with avoir**

To form a question in the passé composé using inversion, invert the conjugated helping verb with the subject pronoun and add a hyphen. Then place the negative around the hyphenated helping verb and subject pronoun:

As‐tu mangé? (Did you eat?)

N'as‐tu rien mangé? (Didn't you eat anything?)

A‐t‐il attendu les autres? (Did he wait for the others?)

N'a‐t‐il pas attendu? (Didn't he wait for the others?)