**Past Participles: Les Participes Passés**

**Definition:** A past partciple is a past tense verb form that can be used for two things.

For one, it can be used to form a past tense when it is accompanied by the verb “to have.”

*I have* ***eaten.*** *He has* ***spoken****. We have* ***seen****. J’ai* ***mangé.*** *Il a* ***parlé****. Nous avons* ***vu.***

For two, it can be used as an adjective to describe something that has had an action done to it.

*The apples* ***eaten*** *by kids were rotten. Les pommes* ***mangées*** *par les enfants étaient pourries.*

*The language* ***spoken*** *in France is French. La langue* ***parlée*** *en France est le français.*

*The criminal seen in the street was tall.*  *Le criminel* ***vu*** *dans la rue était grand.*

When a past participle is used as an adjective in French, it will add adjective endings for masculine, feminine, and plural words, as you can see in the examples above. More on that later.

**Why am I learning this ?** If you know how to conjugate a verb in the *passé composé*, you already know how to form a participle. ER verbs change –er to –é. IR verbs change –ir to –i. RE verbs change –re to –u. Those words are not limited to being part of the passé composé, and you can use them wherever it would make sense in English. This is a free and pretty easy way to use something you already know to expand your vocabulary.

**Try it. Give the past participles of the following verbs in English and French.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| To watch: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Regarder: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| To hear: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Entendre: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| To sell: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Vendre: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| To lose: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Perdre: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| To give: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | Donner: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

**Adjective agreement.** Since participles used as adjectives are used to *describe* things, they must match the things they describe. Let’s use “eaten (mangé)” as an example.

*The sandwich eaten at the party was good. Le sandwich mangé à la fête était bon.*

*The pizza eaten at the party was good. La pizza mangé****e*** *à la fête était bonne.*

*The sandwiches eaten at the party were good. Les sandwiches mangé****s*** *à la fête était bons.*

*The pizzas eaten at the party were good. Les pizzas* ***mangées*** *à la fête était bonnes.*

**Practice by translating from French to English.**

1. Les animaux vendus à Petco sont malades.
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Les langues parlées au Canada sont le français et l’anglais.
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3. Ma grand-mère est très aimée.
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Son devoir fini, il a décidé de regarder la télé.
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Je ne veux pas être mangé !
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. Est-ce que les devoirs sont rendus ?
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Try translating just the bold parts of the following sentences to French.**

1. There was a competition and **the boy chosen** to compete was very smart.
2. **The question forgotten,** the teacher returned to her desk. (oublier)
3. The teacher put **the defined vocabulary** on the board.
4. We don’t want **to be watched.**
5. He came back to class with **the bottles refilled.** (la bouteille = the bottle)