

1 Most verbs take *avoir* as the auxiliary. However, 16 verbs take *être*. Five of them have an irregular past participle. Find the 16 infinitives and the five past participles in the wordsearch grid.

R	E	T	O	U	R	N	E	R	U	R	B
U	N	R	E	V	E	N	U	I	N	E	E
N	T	O	M	B	E	R	N	T	E	V	R
E	R	M	N	R	O	I	S	R	V	E	E
V	E	P	A	E	N	T	E	O	E	N	S
A	R	R	I	V	E	R	S	S	D	I	R
R	L	I	T	O	I	A	E	U	E	R	I
I	S	L	R	N	O	P	I	T	R	E	R
N	U	E	E	S	P	O	N	E	N	M	U
E	R	V	I	R	E	S	T	E	R	O	O
V	E	O	R	E	R	T	N	E	R	R	M
D	E	S	C	E	N	D	R	E	S	T	E

Grammaire

The perfect tense is used to say that something 'happened', 'has happened' or 'did happen'. To form it, you need an auxiliary (a present tense form of *avoir* or *être*) and a past participle.

All reflexive verbs also take *être* in the perfect tense. With all verbs that take *être*, the past participle must agree with the subject of the verb, adding -e, -s or -es to the past participle as appropriate.

Preceding direct objects

Past participles don't change when *avoir* is the auxiliary UNLESS there is a direct object (which could be a noun or a pronoun) that comes before the verb.

Je les ai vus. I saw them.

La robe qu'elle a choisie est bleue.
The dress she chose is blue.

There is more practice of this on page 45.

2 Translate a–e into French.

- a Our daughters went to Italy last year. _____
- b She got up early. _____
- c My parents got interested in ancient monuments. _____
- d She was born in nineteen ninety-nine. _____
- e She became a dentist. _____

3 Check you know the most common irregular past participles: write the English meaning of the following ones.

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| a eu _____ | h su _____ | o couru _____ |
| b bu _____ | i voulu _____ | p dit _____ |
| c fait _____ | j connu _____ | q ouvert _____ |
| d vu _____ | k reçu _____ | r écrit _____ |
| e vécu _____ | l mis _____ | s été _____ |
| f lu _____ | m pris _____ | t compris _____ |
| g dû _____ | n pu _____ | |

4 Complete a–e using the perfect tense of the verbs in brackets. Add -e, -s or -es to the past participles as appropriate.

- a Les chaussures que j'_____ sont très belles. (acheter)
- b Mon portable? Non, je ne sais pas où je l'_____. (mettre)
- c Où sont mes lunettes? Je crois que je les _____. (perdre)
- d Ta lettre? Oui, je l'_____ ce matin. (recevoir)
- e Les photos qu'il _____ sont fantastiques. (prendre)