



Lancaster Royal Grammar School.

Department of Modern Foreign Languages.

French

GCSE to A-level

Transition Booklet

The most important thing for any language is to keep it going - by doing nothing you will lose so much of the knowledge you have built up over your GCSE course. Please do find some interesting reading and try some listening from the ideas at the back of the booklet. It will be a great help to you as well if you read through the tense notes and do as many of the activities as you can.

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PERFECT TENSE (what happened/ has happened)

The perfect tense is used to talk about something that happened in the past - an action that is completely finished.

In the perfect tense regular verbs follow the pattern shown below

RULE = subject + present tense auxiliary verb + past participle = PERFECT TENSE

	(-er verbs)	(-ir verbs)	(-re verbs)
j'ai	porté	choisi	vendu
tu as	porté	choisi	vendu
il / elle / on a	porté	choisi	vendu
nous avons	porté	choisi	vendu
vous avez	porté	choisi	vendu
ils / elles ont	porté	choisi	vendu

- some verbs have a past participle that is irregular and not formed in this way, e.g.:

anglais	infinitif	participe passé
	boire	
	comprendre	
	croire	
	devoir	
	dire	
	disparaître	
	écrire	
	être	
	faire	
	lire	
	mettre	
	offrir	
	ouvrir	
	pouvoir	
	prendre	
	recevoir	
	rire	
	savoir	
	voir	
	vouloir	

Complétez les phrases avec le passé composé (le verbe auxiliaire et le participe passé).

1. J'ai bu un coca. (boire)
2. Tu _____ (vouloir).
3. Il _____ (prendre).
4. Elle _____ (apprendre).
5. On _____ (lire).
6. Nous _____ (voir).
7. Vous _____ (faire).
8. Ils _____ (pouvoir).
9. Elles _____ (écrire).

- The following verbs (MRSVANDERTRAMP & reflexives) use “être” as the auxiliary verb

- monter
- rester
- sortir
- venir
- arriver
- naître
- descendre
- entrer
- rentrer
- tomber
- retourner
- aller
- mourir
- partir

- e.g. I washed myself - ____ ____ ____ ____
- If “être” is used as the auxiliary verb, check for agreements

je suis	allé(e)
tu es	allé(e)
il / elle / on est	allé(e)
nous sommes	allé(e) s
vous êtes	allé(e) (s)
ils / elles sont	allé(e) s

Traduisez les phrases:

1. I went to Paris - _____
2. He went in the shop - _____
3. You fell in the playground - _____
4. I left with Sylvie - _____
5. She arrived about 2pm - _____
6. Did you leave before me? - _____
7. We stayed there until 6pm - _____
8. I came home by metro - _____
9. They arrived on time. - _____
10. I was born in 2002 - _____

IMPERFECT TENSE (what used to happen / was happening)

In the imperfect tense the verbs follow the pattern shown below.

RULE = subject + **stem** (take "nous" form of present tense and remove '-ons') = IMPERFECT TENSE

	(-er verbs)	(-ir verbs)	(-re verbs)
je	portais	choisissais	vendais
tu	portais	choisissais	vendais
il / elle / on	portait	choisissait	vendait
nous	portions	choisissions	vendions
vous	portiez	choisissiez	vendiez
ils / elles	portaient	choissaient	vendaient

- for the imperfect tense, the endings are the same as those used for the conditional tense
- the only verb that has an irregular stem is : être= ét-
- the imperfect tense is used to express what used to happen or what was happening, i.e. to describe something in the past that happened often or that has not finished, or to give a description of what something was like

	Avoir	Être	Aller	Faire	Devoir	Pouvoir	Savoir	Venir	Vouloir
Je									
Tu									
Il/Elle/On									
Nous									
Vous									
Ils/Elles									

PLUPERFECT TENSE (what had happened)

The pluperfect tense is used to talk about a past action completed prior to another past action that is either mentioned or understood from the context.

In the pluperfect tense is formed by using the imperfect form of the verb **avoir** or **être** with the past participle, much the same structure as for the perfect tense.

RULE = subject + **imperfect tense auxiliary verb** + **past participle** = PLUPERFECT TENSE

	(-er verbs)	(-ir verbs)	(-re verbs)
j' avais	porté	choisi	vendu
tu avais	porté	choisi	vendu
il / elle / on avait	porté	choisi	vendu
nous avions	porté	choisi	vendu
vous aviez	porté	choisi	vendu
ils / elles avaient	porté	choisi	vendu

- as for the perfect tense, most verbs use “avoir” as the auxiliary verb. The same groups (MRSVANDERTRAMP & reflexives) as for the perfect tense use “être” as the auxiliary verb

j'étais	entré(e)
tu étais	entré(e)
il / elle / on était	entré(e)
nous étions	entré(e)s
vous étiez	entré(e)s
ils / elles étaient	entré(e)s

FUTURE TENSE (what will happen)

RULE = subject + stem (infinitive of verb + ending) = FUTURE TENSE

	(-er verbs)	(-ir verbs)	(-re verbs)
Je	porterai	choisirai	vendrai
Tu	porteras	choisiras	vendras
il / elle / on	portera	choisira	vendra
nous	porterons	choirons	vendrons
vous	porterez	choirez	vendrez
ils / elles	porteront	choisiront	vendront

- the same endings are also used for all irregular endings. The only part that is irregular is the stem. For example:

avoir= aur- / être= ser- / faire= fer- / aller= ir-

- when forming “-re” verbs, take off the ‘e’

FUTURE	Avoir	Être	Aller	Faire	Devoir	Pouvoir	Savoir	Venir	Vouloir
Je									
Tu									
Il/Elle/On									
Nous									
Vous									
Ils/Elles									

NEAR FUTURE TENSE (what is going to happen)

The near future tense is used to talk about something that is going to happen in the future which is either immediate or certain.

RULE = subject + stem (part of aller) + infinitive of verb = NEAR FUTURE TENSE

Je vais	
Tu vas	
il / elle / on va	+ infinitive
nous allons	
vous allez	
ils / elles vont	

CONDITIONAL TENSE (what would happen)

In the conditional tense regular verbs follow the pattern shown below.

RULE = subject + **stem** (infinitive of verb + ending) = CONDITIONAL TENSE

	<i>(-er verbs)</i>	<i>(-ir verbs)</i>	<i>(-re verbs)</i>
Je	porterais	choiserais	vendrais
Tu	porterais	choiserais	vendrais
il / elle / on	porterait	choisirait	vendrait
nous	porterions	choisirions	vendrions
vous	porteriez	choisiriez	vendriez
ils / elles	porteraient	choisiraient	vendraient

- when forming the stem for “-re” verbs remove the “e”
- the conditional tense uses the same stem as the future tense (for regular and irregular verbs) and the endings (for all verbs) are the same as those used in imperfect tense
- the conditional of : “pouvoir” can mean ‘could’ AND “devoir” can mean ‘should’
- some verbs have irregular stems (but the endings are the same), e.g.:
 - avoir = aur
 - être = ser
 - faire = fer
 - vouloir = voudr
 - aller = ir
 - pouvoir = pourr

Footnote: SI CLAUSES

Si (if) clauses are used to express conditions contrary to fact.

For such clause there is a definite order of tenses:

RULE =	<u>Si clause</u>	<u>Result clause</u>
	Present	Future
	Imperfect	Conditional
	Pluperfect	Past conditional

○ **Examples:**

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Si tu viens, je resterai. | If you come, I will stay. |
| 2. Si tu venais, je resterais. | If you were coming, I would stay. |
| 3. Si tu étais venu, je serais resté. | If you had come, I would have stayed. |

Traduire en anglais:

1. Si j'avais su la vérité je ne serais pas venu le weekend dernier.
2. Si tu veux, on pourra aller voir le spectacle demain.
3. Si tu étais plus intelligent, tu aurais de très bonnes notes.

Complex Structures to Master for L6

Avoir structures:

e.g	avoir besoin de - to need	
	J'avais besoin d' un bon prof.	I needed a good teacher.
	avoir envie de - to want to	
	J'ai envie d'aller en France	I want to go to France
	en avoir marre - to be fed up	
	J'en avais marre.	I was fed up with it.
	avoir lieu - to take place	
	Un accident a eu lieu	There was an accident.

Verbs taking a preposition:

J'ai décidé de ... I decided to ...

J'essaie de... I try to...

J'ai commence à.... I started to...

Sans + inf

sans hésiter	without hesitating
sans perdre un moment	without wasting a moment

Avant de ...

avant d'arriver	before arriving
avant de manger	before eating

En + present participle

en arrivant	on arriving
en le voyant	on seeing him

Après avoir + past participle

après avoir mangé, je ... After having eating, I ...

après être arrivé, je ... After having arrived, I ...

venir de

Je viens de commencer à apprendre une nouvelle langue. I have just started learning a new language.

Négatives

Je ne le fais plus.	I don't do it anymore
Je n'ai aucune idée	I have no idea

The subjunctive - This is an A-level structure so you will be taught this in L6

Il faut que je fasse la vaisselle. I have to do the washing up

Il faut que j'aille ... I have to go...

Depuis + présent

J'habite ici depuis quinze ans. I have lived here for 15 years

Object pronouns

Mon frère cadet m'a accompagné(e) My younger brother came with me.

Listening & Reading ideas

Useful websites:

1. The BBC:

www.bbc.co.uk/education/languages/french/

2. France 24:

www.france24.fr (news site in French and English)

3. France bienvenue:

<https://francebienvenue1.wordpress.com/> (listening activities by topic)

4. Kerboodle:

www.kerboodle.com (all the course material – institution code zgu3)

A good idea for reading is to find children's books with simpler language or a story you already know to give you some background. Don't be over-ambitious!