

## Le passé simple

The past historic is never used in spoken French or in letter writing, only in written stories, articles and novels. Like the perfect tense, *passé-composé*, it describes completed actions in the past.

- To form the past historic of regular verbs, take the root of the verb (-er; -ir; -re) and add the following endings (note that the endings are similar for both -ir and -re verbs):

**Parler**  
Je parlai  
Tu parlas  
Il parla  
Nous parlâmes  
Vous parlâtes  
Ils parlèrent

**Finir**  
Je finis  
Tu finis  
Il finit  
Nous finîmes  
Vous finîtes  
Ils finirent

**Rendre**  
Je rendis  
Tu rendis  
Il rendit  
Nous rendîmes  
Vous rendîtes  
Ils rendirent

- For some (not all of them !) irregular verbs whose past participles end in -u, drop the -u and add : -us ; -us ; -ut ; -ûmes ; -ûtes ; -urent.

Verbs taking these endings include : boire, connaître, courir, croire, devoir, lire, pouvoir, recevoir, savoir, vivre, vouloir...

- For some irregular verbs whose past participles end in -i, -is, or -it, drop the i, -is, or -it and add the endings of regular -ir verbs in the *passé simple*.

Verbs taking these endings include : Dormir, dire, partir, sortir, prendre, mettre, mentir, sentir, suivre, sourire, rire, servir...

### Exercice 1

Conjugate the following verbs in the *passé simple* :

1. Il recevoir : .....
2. Nous rire : .....
3. Elles sortir : .....
4. Il pleuvoir : .....
5. Je mettre : .....
6. Tu dormir : .....
7. Vous prendre : .....
8. Ils lire : .....
9. Elle savoir : .....
10. Nous pouvoir : .....

