

# Synthèse de grammaire

## 1. Expressing the Most, Least, Best, and Worst: *le superlatif des adjectifs*

When describing places in a city or town, you might want to talk about the places that are best and worst, or to describe the ways in which places stand out in other ways: the most exciting or the least expensive, for example.

**plus** = most     *La place qui est la **plus** intéressante, c'est la place des Vosges.*

**moins** = least     *Ce restaurant est le **moins** cher de mon quartier.*

Here is how to form the superlative:

		definite article	plus/moins	adjective	
(m.)	C'est	le	plus	grand	musée.

(f.)	La rue	la	moins	longue	est la rue des Degrés.
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(m. pl.)	Les parcs d'attractions sont les endroits	les	moins	relaxants!	
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(f. pl.)	Paris a	les	plus	belles	vues.
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To express the best or the worst of something, we use *le/la/les meilleur(e)(s)* ou *le/la/les pire(s)*:

*Ce musée est **le meilleur** de la ville.*

This museum is the best in the city.

*On joue **les meilleurs** matches de rugby à ce stade.*

They play the best rugby matches in this stadium.

*J'ai goûté **la pire** omelette en ville.*

I tasted the worst omelette in the city.

## 2. Describing What You Did: *le passé composé* (I)

To tell what you did in the past, use the *passé composé*. The most important thing to notice about the *passé composé* is that it has two parts (*composé* means *compound*).

The first part, immediately after the subject, is always the verb <b>avoir</b> or the verb <b>être</b> conjugated in the present tense. Most verbs use <b>avoir</b> , but some, like <b>aller</b> , are formed using <b>être</b> .	The second part, called the past participle, is the part of the <i>passé composé</i> that looks more like the infinitive. However, it cannot be a verb by itself!
<b>J'ai</b>	<b>acheté un ticket de métro.</b>
<b>Je suis</b>	<b>allé(e) au parc pour jouer au foot.</b>

## 3. Telling Where You Went and How You Got There: *le passé composé* (II)

- a. The past participle, which is the second part of the *passé composé*, is often formed by changing the ending of the infinitive.

There are a few common endings of past participles:

- those that end in **-é**: *téléchargé, invité, allé, rentré*;
  - those that end in **-u**: *vu* (*saw*, from *voir*), *descendu* (*went down*, from *descendre*); and,
  - others, such as *pris* (*took*, from *prendre*) and *fait* (*did*, from *faire*).
- b. When a verb uses *être* in the *passé composé*, the past participle must agree in gender and number with the subject doing the action.

je suis descendu je suis descendue	nous sommes descendus nous sommes descendues
tu es descendu tu es descendue	vous êtes descendu vous êtes descendue vous êtes descendus vous êtes descendues
il est descendu elle est descendue on est descendu(e)(s)	ils sont descendus elles sont descendues

- c. When you want to express what you did not do, place **ne ... pas** around **avoir** or **être**. **Ne** contracts to **n'** before a vowel.

Nous ne sommes pas allés au musée.

Je n'ai pas acheté de billet.