

# French 2

## Chapter 6.1 Grammar Review

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### The Imparfait

1. The *Imparfait* is a past tense that tells how things **used to be**, **would be** (in the past), or actions that happened **repeatedly** in the past. It also expresses “**was-ing**” and “**were-ing**”.

Ex: J'**allais** au parc quand j'étais petit → I **used to** / I **would** go to the park when I was little

Ex: Il **allait** au parc quand il est tombé → He **was going** to the park, when he fell.

2. The *Imparfait* is very regular. To form the *Imparfait*, drop the **–ons** from the present tense conjugation **nous** form to get your verb stem, and then add the following endings:

	<b>PARLER</b>	<b>FINIR</b>	<b>VENDRE</b>
je/j'	parlais	finissais	vendais
tu	parlais	finissais	vendais
il/elle/on	parlait	finissait	vendait
nous	parlions	finissions	vendions
vous	parliez	finissiez	vendiez
ils/elles	parlaient	finissaient	vendaient

3. **–GER & –CER Verbs:** Like in the present tense, all **–GER** and **–CER** verbs make changes before verb ending in all forms except the *nous* and *vous* form to retain their pronunciation:

Ex: Nous mangeons (présent) → Je mangeais, *but* nous mangions (imparfait)

Ex: Nous commençons (présent) → Je commençais, *but* nous commencions (imparfait)

4. **ÊTRE:** Être is the only verb with an irregular stem which is “**ét-**”.

Ex: Quand j'**étais** petit, j'**étais** timide. → When I was little, I was shy.

### The Passé Composé vs. The Imparfait

1. **WOULD/USED TO:** As stated above, use the *Imparfait* to talk about **repeated** actions in the past that indicate how things **were** or what **would** happen or **used to** happen.

Ex: Quand j'**étais** plus petit, nous **allions** au lac chaque été

When I **was** young, we **would/used to** go the lake each summer.

2. **DESCRIPTIONS:** When giving descriptions about the past, talking about what something was like, you will use the *Imparfait*.

Ex: Il **faisait** très beau. Il **y avait** beaucoup de fleurs, et toutes les maisons **étaient** belles.

The weather **was** beautiful. There **were** a lot of flowers and all the houses **were** pretty.

3. **SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME:** When indicating that something *happened* or what someone or something *did* at a specific moment or in a set period of time, use the *Passé Composé*:
- Ex: Une fois, j'*ai fait* un chateau de sable incroyable! (une fois = set period of time)  
 One time, I *made* an incredible sand castle. (one time = set period of time)
- Ex: À ce moment-là, mon chat *est tombé* de l'arbre. (À ce moment-là = specific moment)  
 At that moment, my cat *fell* from the tree. (at that moment = specific moment)
4. **TWO SIMULTANEOUS ACTIONS:** When talking about two actions that were occurring at that same time in the past, use the *Imparfait*. Here, the *Imparfait* expresses “was-ing” or “were-ing”.
- Ex: Pendant que je *jouais* aux billes, ma soœr *jouait* à la poupée  
 While I *was playing* marbles, my sister *was playing* dolly.
5. **INTERRUPTED ACTIONS:** When talking about what was going on when another action happened, you'll use the *Imparfait* and the *Passé Composé* together. The action that *was* happening is *Imparfait* and the interrupting action is *Passé Composé*.
- Ex: Nous *grimpions* aux arbres quand mon amie *est tombée*.  
 We *were climbing* trees when my friend *fell*.
- Ex: Alors que je l'*aidais* à grimper à l'arbre, il *est tombé*  
 When/While I *was helping* him climb the tree, he *fell*.

## Adverb Placement

1. **SHORT/COMMON ADVERBS:** Generally, most short or very common adverbs go directly after the conjugated verb. In the *Passé Composé* that would be either *Avoir* or *Être*.
- Ex: Je joue *souvent* aux dames, et hier, j'ai *bien* joué.
2. **LARGE (-MENT)/LESS COMMON ADVERBS:** Generally, larger adverbs, or often those which end in *-ment*, go at the beginning or end of the sentence. In *Passé Composé* they can go after the past participle sometimes as well.
- Ex: *Normalement*, je passe le samedi avec mes compais. (*normalement* can also be at the end)  
 Ex: Tu t'es levée *régilièrement* à six heures. (*régilièrement* can follow the p.p.)
3. **EXCEPTIONS:** *Comme ci comme ça* (so-so), *quelquefois* (sometimes), and *de temps en temps* (from time to time). They usually go at the beginning or end of the sentence.
- Ex: Je joue aux dames *comme ci comme ça*. → I play checkers so-so.  
 Ex: *De temps en temps*, je joue seul → From time to time, I play alone.  
 Ex: *Quelquefois* je gagne! → Sometimes I win!  
 Ex: Je perds *quelquefois* aussi! → I lose sometimes too!