

Passé Simple (Simple Past – literary)

7.1. Usage

- **Literary or historical tense**, mainly in books, newspapers, and formal writing:
Napoléon arriva à Paris en 1799. → Napoleon arrived in Paris in 1799.
- Rare in spoken French, replaced by **passé composé**.

7.2. Formation (regular verbs)

- **-er verbs**: -ai, -as, -a, -âmes, -âtes, -èrent
- **-ir/-re verbs**: -is, -is, -it, -îmes, -îtes, -irent
- **Irregular verbs**: you have to learn them!

Example: Parler (to speak)

Person	Conjugation
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je	parlai
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tu	parlas
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il/elle/on	parla
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nous	parlâmes
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vous	parlâtes
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ils/elles	parlèrent
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