

Dans les trois premières sections (I, II, III) du *Petit Prince*:

Je regardai
 Je réussis
 Il me répéta
 Que cela me semblât
 Je sortis
 Je me rappelai
 je dis au
 Il me répondit
 Je refis
 Je fus stupéfait
 Il regarda
 Je dessinaï
 Mon ami sourit
 Il fut refuse?
 Je fus bien surpris
 Je griffonai
 Il pencha la tête
 je fis la connaissance
 il me fallut
 Quand il aperçut
 Il s'écria
 Il me demanda
 Oui, fis-je
 Il eut un éclat de rire
 Il ajouta
 J'entrevis
 Il se plongea
 Je m'efforçai

The *passé simple* is most often formed by dropping the last two letters of the infinitive form of the verb and adding the appropriate ending:

	-er	-ir	-re
je	parlai	finis	vendis
tu	parlas	finis	vendis
il	parla	finit	vendit
nous	parlâmes	finîmes	vendîmes
vous	parlâtes	finîtes	vendîtes
ils	parlèrent	finirent	vendirent

NB: As you can see, the endings for regular -ir verbs and -re verbs are the same. Irregular verbs like *faire*, *venir*, *avoir*, or *aller* have slightly different endings.

It's also called the *passé défini* (*), the preterite, or the historical past.

(*) And the *passé composé*, you guessed it, is the *passé indéfini*. En

While literary and refined language still uses the *passé simple*, the standard ordinary spoken language has renounced *passé simple* for the *passé composé*.

The *passé simple*'s meaning is the same as the *passé composé*, used predominantly in formal writing (including history and literature) and formal speech. In writing it is most often used for narration.

In modern spoken French, the *passé simple* has practically disappeared, but localized French has its own variations, In Canada, the *passé simple* continues to be used, at least more than in France.

It is usually not taught to foreigners until advanced French classes. In modern spoken French, the *passé simple* is used occasionally as a joke to make the sentence sound either more pretentious or refined.

Sometimes the *passé simple* is used to express an event or action that is complete, but not necessarily remote in time: *Le Général de Gaulle vécut 80 ans.* (The past participle “*vécu*” resembles the *passé simple* form “*vécut*”, as is the case with many verbs.)

This tense is easily recognizable!

Passé Simple

Je regardai
Je réussis
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Que cela me semblât
Je sortis
Je me rappelai
je dis au
Il me répondit
Je refis
Je fus stupéfait
Il regarda
Je dessina
Mon ami sourit
Il fut refuse?
Je fus bien surpris
Je griffonai
Il pencha la tête
je fis la connaissance
il me fallut
Quand il aperçut
Il s'écria
Il me demanda
Oui, fis-je
Il eut un éclat de rire
Il ajouta
J'entrevis
Il se plongea
Je m'efforçai
La proposition parut
Eut un
Il ajuta