

DES INVITATIONS

SUB-HEADING- LE PASSE COMPOSE DES VERBES PRONOMINAUX

CLASS- 8

SUBJECT : FRENCH

CHAPTER NUMBER: 8

CHAPTER NAME : DES INVITATIONS

CHANGING YOUR TOMORROW

LE VERBES PRONOMINAUX OU REFLECHIS

What is a reflexive verb?

A **reflexive verb** is one where the subject and object are the same, and where the action 'reflects back' on the subject. It is used with a reflexive pronoun such as myself, yourself and herself in English, for example, I washed myself; He shaved himself.

1 Using reflexive verbs

In French, reflexive verbs are much more common than in English, and many are used in everyday French. They are shown in dictionaries as **se** plus the infinitive (**se** means himself, herself, itself, themselves or oneself). **se** is called a reflexive pronoun.

Tip **se** changes to **s'** in front of a word starting with a vowel, most words starting with **h**, and the French word **y**. Reflexive verbs are often used to describe things you do (to yourself) every day or that involve a change of some sort (going to bed, sitting down, getting angry, going to sleep).

LE VERBES PRONOMINAUX OU REFLECHIS

Common French Reflexive Verbs

Here are a few verbs that are very commonly used reflexively:

se laver — to wash (oneself)

se laver les mains — to wash one's hands

se coiffer — to do (one's) hair

se coucher — to go to bed

se réveiller— to wake up

se lever — to get up

s'asseoir — to sit (down)

s'appeler — to be called

s'arrêter — to stop (oneself)

se taire — to be/become quiet

Je regarde un film. — I am watching a film.

Je me regarde dans le miroir. — I am looking at myself in the mirror.

LE VERBES PRONOMINAUX OU REFLECHIS

Subject pronoun	Reflexive pronoun	Meaning
je	me (m')	myself
tu	te (t')	yourself
il elle on	se (s')	himself herself itself oneself
nous	nous	ourselves
vous	vous	yourself (singular) yourselves (plural)
ils elles	se (s')	themselves

LE VERBES PRONOMINAUX OU REFLECHIS

je me lave	I wash (myself)
tu te laves	you wash (yourself)
il se lave elle se lave on se lave	he washes (himself) she washes (herself) it washes (itself) one washes (oneself)
nous nous lavons	we wash (ourselves)
vous vous lavez	you wash (yourself) (singular) you wash (yourselves) (plural)
ils se lavent elles se lavent	they wash (themselves)

LE PASSE COMPOSE DES VERBES PRONOMINAUX

The Passé Composé is formed with a helper followed by the past participle of the main verb. The helper verb is always either **AVOIR** or **ÊTRE**, depending on which main verb you're using. With reflexive verbs, the helper verb is always going to be **ÊTRE**.

- **laver** : to wash

J'ai lavé le chien.

I washed the dog.

In the above example, WASH is the verb (action). Note that the subject (I) and the object/recipient (DOG) of this verb are different. Therefore, we don't use a reflexive verb here. And **LAVER** is a regular **-ER** verb that takes the helper verb **AVOIR** in the Passé Composé.

- **se laver** : to wash oneself

Je me suis lavé.

I washed myself.

In this second example, WASH is still the verb (action). But here, the subject (I) of the action and the object/recipient of the action are one in the same. Note that the **SE** becomes **ME** in order to indicate that the subject (I), and the action (WASH), is being done to myself (ME).

LE PASSE COMPOSE DES VERBES PRONOMINAUX

Here are some things to keep in mind when using reflexive verbs in the Passé Composé:

(1) The reflexive pronoun always comes before the helper verb. (Note that **ME**, **TE**, and **SE** become **M'**, **T'**, and **S'** in front of any conjugated form of **ÊTRE** that begins with a vowel.)

Je me suis levé.

I got (myself) up.

Tu t'es préparé.

You (*informal*) got (yourself) ready.

Il s'est rasé.

He shaved (himself).

(2) In a negative sentence, **ne** always comes **before** the reflexive pronoun, and **pas** always comes **after** the helper verb.

Je ne me suis pas levé.

I did not get (myself) up.

Tu ne t'es pas préparé.

You (*informal*) did not get (yourself) ready.

Il ne s'est pas rasé.

He did not shave (himself).

LE PASSE COMPOSE DES VERBES PRONOMINAUX

(3) Asking a question in the Passé Composé using either *Est-ce que* or simple intonation,

- **Je ne me suis pas levé?**
Didn't I get (myself) up?
- **Est-ce que tu t'es préparé?**
Did you (*informal*) get (yourself) ready?
- **Est-ce qu'il ne s'est pas rasé?**
Didn't he shave (himself)?

(4) Asking a question in the Passé Composé using inversion, the helper verb comes before the subject pronoun; the reflexive pronoun still comes before the helper verb. In a negative question using inversion, **ne** is still placed before the reflexive pronoun and **pas** comes right before the past participle.

- **T'es-tu préparé?**
Did you (*informal*) get (yourself) ready?
- **Ne s'est-il pas rasé?**
Didn't he shave (himself)?

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