

How does Past Participle Agreement Work in French?

Worksheet

Past participle agreement requires the participle to match gender and number with the direct object (with avoir) or subject (with être). With avoir, agreement occurs only when the direct object precedes the verb; with être, the participle always agrees with the subject.

Questions

1. Choose: 'La femme que j'ai __ (voir)'.

- A) vu
- B) vue
- C) vus
- D) vues

2. Which sentence shows past participle agreement?

- A) J'ai mangé les pommes.
- B) Les pommes que j'ai mangées.
- C) Both sentences agree.
- D) No agreement in either.

3. Complete: 'Elle est __ (sortir) de la maison.'

- A) sorti
- B) sortie
- C) sorties
- D) sortis

4. Past participle agreement with avoir: when?

- A) Always
- B) Never
- C) When direct object precedes the verb
- D) When the object is feminine

5. Fill in: J'ai __ (finir) la tâche. (task = feminine)

6. Fill in: La tâche que j'ai __ (finir). (task = feminine)

7. Conjugate: Elles sont __ (arriver) à l'heure.

8. Define: When does past participle agreement happen with avoir?

9. Define: Past participle agreement with être: rule?

10. Define: Example: 'Les films que j'ai __' (see). Fill in.

Answer Key

1. B) vue — Object 'que' (feminine singular = la femme) precedes → feminine singular -e → 'vue'.
2. B) Les pommes que j'ai mangées. — Only the second: object 'que' (feminine plural) before → 'mangées'.
3. B) sortie — With être, agree with subject 'elle' (feminine singular) → 'sortie'.
4. C) When direct object precedes the verb — Agreement occurs only if the direct object precedes (e.g., 'la robe que j'ai achetée').
5. Direct object 'la tâche' comes AFTER the verb → No agreement needed → Answer: J'ai fini la tâche. (no -e)
6. Direct object 'que' (= la tâche) comes BEFORE the verb → Agreement with feminine singular → Answer: La tâche que j'ai finie. (add -e)
7. With être, subject 'Elles' is feminine plural → Always agree with subject → Answer: Elles sont arrivées à l'heure. (add -es)
8. Only when a direct object precedes the verb (e.g., La robe que j'ai achetée = feminine singular -ée).
9. The past participle ALWAYS agrees with the subject (gender & number): Elle est partie, Ils sont partis.
10. Vus (masculine plural -us). The object 'que' = 'les films' (masculine plural) comes before.

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