

ONZIÈME LEÇON.

THE PRETERITE TENSE.

Il fut trompé = Il a été trompé. (1)
He was deceived.

J'eus le plaisir de le voir = J'ai eu le plaisir, etc.
I had the pleasure of seeing him.

Il frappa la table = Il a frappé la table. (2)
He struck the table.

(I was)	(I had)	(I gave)	(I finished)	(I received)
Je fu-s }	J' eu-s }	Je donnai	Je fini-s }	Je reçû-s } (3)
Tu fu-s }	Tu eu-s }	Tu donna-s	Tu fini-s }	Tu reçû-s }
Il fu-t }	Il eu-t }	Il donna-	Il fini-t }	Il reçû-t } (4)
Ils fu-rent	Ils eu-rent	Ils donnè-rent	Ils fini-rent	Ils reçû-rent (5)
Nous fû-mes	Nous eû-mes	Nous donnâ-mes	Nous fini-mes	Nous reçû-mes
Vous fû-tes	Vous eû-tes	Vous donnâ-tes	Vous fini-tes	Vous reçû-tes (6)

(1) We have already seen that the French *Perfect tense* answers to two tenses in English—the *Perfect proper* (*I have been or have given*) and the *Preterite* (*I was or I gave*). This is quite the case in regard to the spoken language. The written language, however, has a special *Preterite* tense as in English.

(2) The French *Preterite* should be used with caution. It is out of place in conversation. In literature it is never used with such expressions as AUJOURD'HUI, CE MATIN, CETTE SEMAINE, CETTE ANNÉE, etc., for these expressions represent present time, or at least time that has not yet entirely elapsed. It is quite proper to use it with HIER, LA SEMAINE DERNIÈRE, etc.—expressions denoting past time.

(3) The *s* is omitted from JE DONNAI (pronounced *do-nè*), which distinguishes it from the Imperfect JE DONNAIS (pronounced *do-nè*). So with all verbs of the ER conj.

(4) The *t* is dropped from IL DONNA, but retained in the Interrogative DONNA-T-IL ? So with other verbs of the ER conj.

(5) FU-rent, FINI-rent, etc. (pronounced *fur*, *finir*, etc.): notice the peculiar ending RENT. This is the Latin RUNT (*fue-runt*, *fini-runt*). In the ER conj. the *a* becomes *è* before *r*: DONNÈRENT.

(6) The endings *mes* and *tes* are the same as in NOUS SOM-mes, VOUS Ê-tes.