**Conjugations of passé composé and l’imparfait**

**Review of le passé composé:**

Recall: Le sujet + l’auxiliaire (avoir ou être) + le participe passé

The verbs ending in **er** will change to **é** when using the passé composé.

Ex: (écouter) -> Elle a écouté.

The verbs ending in **ir** will change to **i** when using the passé composé.

Ex: (finir) -> J’ai fini mes devoirs.

The verbs ending in **re** will change to **u** when using the passé composé.

Ex: (descendre) -> Il est descendu.

**Introducing l’imparfait:**

Follow the steps provided in order to properly conjugate the verb:

1. Conjugate the verb in present tense for the pronoun ***nous.***

2. Cut off the ‘ONS’ at the end of the verb to create the “stem.”

3. Add the ending that corresponds with the subject pronoun.

The endings are as follows:

Je            **AIS** Nous                **IONS**

Tu           **AIS** Vous                 **IEZ**

Il/Elle       **AIT**Ils/Elles             **AIENT**

Ex: (present tense) Nous chantons

   (cut off the ons) Nous chant\_\_\_\_\_

   (add the ending to the stem) Nous chant**ions**

Ex: Nous descendons

  Je descend\_\_\_\_\_

  Je descend**ais**

There is only one exception to this rule: ÊTRE

The proper stem for être is “ÉT”

The endings stay the same:

Je **AIS** Nous                 **IONS**

Tu **AIS** Vous                 **IEZ**

Il/Elle       **AIT**Ils/Elles             **AIENT**

**Distinctions between passé compose and l’imparfait**

**Passé composé:**

1. The action happening in the past is **occasional.**

(occurring a specific number of times)

Ex: Krystal a eu peur des chats.

2. The action happening in the past is **complete.**

(an action that started and finished in a given time)

Ex: Krystal a lu le livre.

3. The action happening in the past is **interrupting** another action in progress.

Ex: Sabrina dansait quand Krystal a ouvert la porte.

**Imparfait:**

1. The action happening in the past is **habitual.**

(an ongoing action that occurs on a regular basis)

Ex: Sabrina avait toujours peur des chats.

2. The action happening in the past is **incomplete.**

(an action without a distinct or specified ending)

Ex: Sabrina lisait son livre.

3. The **background** action happening in the past is interrupted byanother action.

Ex: Sabrina dansait quand Krystal a ouvert la porte.