

Agreement of Past Participle

Study the rules below. Then create your own flowchart of the Rules of Agreement of the Past Participle using the *Inspiration* software.

Verbs Conjugated with Avoir

Rule: Past participle agrees with the *preceding direct object*, if there is one. If there is not, there is no agreement.

Ex: Jean a oublié ses chaussettes. (*no agreement*)
Jean les a oubliées. (*agrees w/ dir. obj.*)

Exceptions: None

Verbs Conjugated with Etre

Rule: Past participle agrees with the subject.

Ex: Alice et sa soeur sont parties. (*agrees w/ subject*)

Exceptions: None

Note: The 5 **être** verbs listed below may take direct objects. *If they do*, they are conjugated with **avoir**, and therefore follow the rules for **avoir** verbs.

monter descendre sortir rentrer retourner

Ex: Jeannine est montée. (*agrees w/ subject*)
Jeannine a monté l'escalier. (*conj. w/ avoir; direct object after verb; no agreement*)

Reflexive (Reciprocal) Verbs

Rule: Always conjugated with **être**. Past participle agrees with reflexive pronoun *if it is the direct object* (which it normally is.)

Ex: Les filles se sont réveillées de bonne heure. (*agrees w/ reflexive pronoun*)

Exceptions: There are two types of sentences in which the reflexive pronoun *is not* the direct object. In both cases, there is *no agreement*.

Ex 1: Claire s'est lavé les cheveux. (*direct object after the verb; reflexive pronoun is indirect obj; no agreement*)

Ex 2 (reciprocal verb): Nous nous sommes écrit. (*reflexive pronoun is indirect object; no agreement*)