

Past Tense

Level: First year French, high school level

Subject: Past tense of regular verbs that take *avoir*

Objectives:

- 1) The students will be able to correctly use the past tense when writing and speaking.
- 2) The students will be able to form the past tense for regular –er, -ir and –re verbs that take *avoir* with ninety-five percent accuracy.
- 3) The students will be able to use the past tense discuss events from their weekend and summer vacation.

Content Standards:

- Standard 1.2: Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics: The students will be identifying the past tense of verbs in both their written and spoken forms in this lesson.

Materials:

- Container of regular –er, -ir, -re verb
- Short story using past tense
- Short French fairytale with the past tense verbs missing
- French news broadcast tape
- Script from the news broadcast

Activities and Procedures:

- ****The class period will be conducted in the target language. The native language will only be used when it seems that the class is having great difficulty with comprehension.****
- Warm Up: At the beginning of class, teacher will take role. Instead of saying "present," the students will be given a subject (i.e. Je, tu, il, nous, vous, ils) and they will have to verbally create a sentence using that subject and the verb *avoir* in the present tense. This will serve as a review for the word *avoir* because it is the auxiliary verb in the past tense. (5 min.)
- Activity #1: The teacher will slowly read a short story in which all of the verbs are in past tense. The students will listen to the story. Next, the teacher will ask the students to answer some questions about the activities that happened in the story. After answering some questions, the students will be given a copy of the short story and they will be asked to underline all of the

verbs in the story. The students will notice that each verb is preceded by the verb *avoir* and that the verb is in its past participle form. (8 min)

- Teacher presentation: The teacher will tell the students that what they have seen is the past tense. The teacher will explain in the target language when to use the past tense and why it is used. (5 min)
- Activity #2: This activity will show the students how the past tense is formed in French. There will be a container filled with regular –er, -ir and –re verbs. The students will volunteer to come up and choose a verb out of the container and act out the action. For example, Jane takes “marcher”. She will walk in front of the class. While Jane is acting out “marcher” the teacher will ask, “What is Jane doing?” The students will respond in present tense. When Jane returns to her seat, the teacher will ask “What did Jane do?” The students will respond in past tense. As the students begin to manipulate the verbs and work through how the past tense is formed they will complete the formation of the –er, -ir, -re verbs on the board. (10 min)
- Activity #3: The students will be given a passage from an authentic French fairytale that is told in the past tense; however all of the verbs are missing. The students will be asked to work in pairs to fill in the missing verbs. The students will have to read the story and then decide which verb is appropriate and how to put it in past tense. The students will have to understand the passage in order to choose the right verb; this is not simply filling in the blanks. (6 min) The teacher will begin reading through the story and will call on students to read each sentence including their responses. (3 min)
- Activity #4: The students will be asked to get into pairs. They will be asked to talk about what they did last night. They will have to use the past tense to discuss the events that happened the night before. (4 min) Then the students will switch partners and the students will tell each other what their previous partner did last night. This will be a sort of jigsaw activity. (4 min) This will be meaningful to the student because they can start to use French to communicate their own real life events and experiences.
- Conclusion: The remaining minutes of class will be used to answer any questions the students have about the past tense. The students will be given another French fairytale with the verbs missing (similar to activity #3) as their homework assignment to bring to the next class meeting. (5 min)