

Reading stories told in the passé simple

French 4 (high school) · Worksheet Answer Key

Level: French 4 (high school, ACTFL Intermediate Mid) · **Standards:** ACTFL Intermediate Mid, WL 1.2 Interpretive, WL 1.3 Presentational, WL 4.1 Language Comparisons

Problem 1 Find the infinitive

The ending shows the family: -a is -er, -irent is -ir, -ut is u-stem, fut belongs to être.

1. parler · 2. finir · 3. vouloir · 4. être

Problem 2 Form the il/elle form

-er verbs take -a; -ir/-re take -it; boire has the u-stem.

1. regarda · 2. choisit · 3. entendit · 4. but

Problem 3 Read a book page

Both verbs end in -it or -a, third person singular.

sortit (sortir), appela (appeler)

Problem 4 Choose the passé simple

Option a is present, option b or c in the imparfait.

1. b (il tomba) · 2. c (ils arrivèrent) · 3. c (elle voulut)

Problem 5 Complete with -er and -ir verbs

Third person: -a / -èrent for -er verbs, -irent for applaudir.

1. monta, traversa · 2. applaudirent, crièrent

Problem 6 Spelling changes

Before a, keep the soft sound: g becomes ge, c becomes ç.

1. mangea · 2. commença · 3. plaça · 4. voyagea

Problem 7 Translate into English

Translate the passé simple with the English simple past.

1. She opened the door. · 2. They left at dawn.

Problem 8 Irregular verbs

These stems must be memorized.

fut · eut · fit · vint · vit · dit

Problem 9 Singular to plural

Use the plural endings (-rent) and change possessives when needed.

1. Ils firent un vœu. · 2. Elles vinrent seules. · 3. Ils eurent peur. · 4. Ils prirent leurs sacs.

Problem 10 Background and plot

The long situation takes the imparfait; the sudden event takes the passé simple.

1. pleuvait, arriva · 2. dormait, réveilla

Problem 11 From story to speech

Use avoir or être plus the past participle. Venir takes être.

1. Il a ouvert la fenêtre. · 2. Elle a été surprise. · 3. Ils ont vu un loup. · 4. Il est venu hier.

Problem 12 Correct the mistake

Each wrong form mixes endings from different families.

1. parla · 2. finirent · 3. voulut · 4. eut

Problem 13 Translate into French

Ne ... rien surrounds the verb; devenir follows venir.

1. Il ne dit rien. · 2. Elle devint reine. · 3. Ils prirent le train.

Problem 14 Infinitives in a story

Sortir is -ir, poussa is -er, prit and fit are irregular.

sortir, pousser, prendre, faire

Problem 15 U-stem verbs

The u-stem endings are -us, -us, -ut, -ûmes, -ûtes, -urent.

1. dut · 2. voulûmes · 3. purent · 4. lus

Problem 16 Full conjugation

Venir has the stem vin- with the endings of the -ir family, and the circumflex in nous and vous.

je vins, tu vins, il vint, nous vînmes, vous vîntes, ils vinrent

Problem 17 Translate a paragraph

Sourire, mettre and sortir take -ir forms.

That morning, Nadia opened the shutters and saw the snow. She smiled, put on her coat and went out.

Problem 18 Passé composé to passé simple

Replace each auxiliary and participle with one verb.

Clément arriva à Liège. Il prit un taxi. Il eut un peu peur.

Problem 19 Write a fairy-tale scene

Model answer: La nuit tombait. Le petit prince arriva près d'un pont et vit une lanterne. Il prit la lanterne et partit vers la montagne.

Check: third-person passé simple forms, one imparfait for the background, correct accents.

Model answer given

Problem 20 Read the fisherman's story

The background verb is attendait. Fut is être, cassa is casser, dit is dire.

a. attendait, imparfait · b. être, casser, dire · c. He says nothing, smiles and goes

back to the harbor.