Using the verb lists (1)

The past tense is called the ‘perfect’ and it uses the past participle. When you look up verbs in the past in English (e.g. they waited):

- look up the infinitive of the verb. e.g. I waited. J’ai attendu. Note the number in square brackets [3].

- look up the verb in the verb lists [3]. Find the perfect tense, and the form of the verb you want:
  - they waited ils ont attendu

Note: Verbs 15–82 give the present tense first and the past participle second:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infinitive</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dormir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[37]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present tense</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>je dors, nous dormons</td>
<td>dormir</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dormi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>je dormais</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>je dormirai</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Past participle needed for the perfect tense. So – I slept j’ai dormi they slept ils/elles ont dormi

Four steps to the French perfect tense

Write the French for each sentence. Follow the four steps a, b, c, and d.

Example: I had to phone Nathalie.

a What is the infinitive in English? b Look this up in the English side of your dictionary.

have to
devoir [8]

J’ai dû appeler Nathalie.

1 They suffered a lot.

a suffer b ____________________

c ____________________ d beaucoup ____________________

2 We had a dog.

a ____________________ b ____________________

c ____________________ d ____________________

3 You went out last night.

a ____________________ b ____________________

c ____________________ d ____________________