FRENCH TABLE

How to choose between imparfait and passé composé

**Seven verbs that have a different meaning
in the *imparfait* and in the *passé composé*.**

MANGO®

Infinitive	Imparfait		Passé composé	
	Meaning	**Example**	**Meaning**	**Example**
avoir to have	had	*Il y a deux ans, j'**avais** un pull rayé.* Two years ago, I had a striped pullover.	received	*Pour mon anniversaire, j'**ai eu** un pull rayé.* For my birthday, I got a striped pullover.
connaître to know	knew	*Il **connaissait** bien cet acteur.* He knew this actor well.	met	*Il **a connu** cet acteur sur le tournage du film.* He met this actor on the film set.
devoir to have to	was/were supposed to	*Tu ne **devais** pas passer l'aspirateur ?* Weren't you supposed to vaccum?	had to	*Tu **as dû** passer l'aspirateur hier ?* Did you have to vaccum yesterday?
être to be	was/were	*Vous **étiez** fatigués ?* Were you tired?	got/became	*Vous **avez été** fatigués ?* Did you get tired?
pouvoir to be able to	was/were able to	*Je ne **pouvais** pas porter ma valise !* I couldn't carry my suitcase!	managed to	*Je n'**ai** pas **pu** porter ma valise !* I didn't manage to carry my suitcase!
savoir to know	knew	*Nous **savions** que tu avais des ennuis !* We knew you were in trouble.	found out	*Nous **avons su** que tu avais des ennuis.* We heard you were in trouble.
vouloir to want	wanted	*Elles **voulaient** une glace.* They wanted an ice cream.	decided to	*Elles **ont voulu** voyager.* They decided to travel.