Subjonctif Passé

CLASS OBJECTIVE: APPRENDRE LE SUBJONCTIF PASSÉ To learn the tense of Past Subjunctive in French.

CONCEPT A: PAST SUBJUNCTIVE:

Passé du subjonctif

The past subjunctive is the past tense of the subjunctive mood. The exact same verbs, emotions, expressions, and conjunctions that call for the subjunctive in the present (and future) require the past subjunctive in reference to subjectivity about something that happened in the past.

CONCEPT B: RULES FOR FORMING A SENTENCE IN PAST SUBJUNCTIVE

The subjunctive past is formed using:

Subject + the subjunctive present of auxiliary verbs avoir or être + the past participle of the verb.

- appeler que BECOMES j'aie appelé that I called (or 'I had called')
- comprendre que BECOMES tu aies compris that you understood (or 'you had understood')
- avoir que BECOMES nous ayons eu that we had (or 'we had had')
- partir que BECOMES ils soient partis that they left (or 'they had left')

For exemple...

Je doute qu'il ait fini ses
I doubt he (has) finished his
homework.

Il est ravi que tu sois venu à He's delighted that you came to
la fête.

Elle ne pense pas que Jean She doesn't think Jean ate / has
ait mangé.

She doesn't think Jean ate / has
eaten.

In the above examples, the speaker is describing a current feeling about something that happened (or didn't happen) in the past. Alternatively, the speaker can explain how he felt in the past about this action:

THE ROLL WAS A CONTRACT OF THE PARTY.

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