

# Failir + Infinitive

## Lesson Guide

To express the idea that you *almost* or *nearly* did something (but didn't), you can use the French verb *faillir* + *infinitive* along with *avoir*.

This is so easy to do that you don't even need to know how to conjugate *faillir*! You can start using this verb today, even if you're a beginner.

The following construction is actually the *passé composé*, but don't worry about that for now if you haven't yet learned it. You can still do this.

Just remember that using *faillir* this way means that you *almost* or *nearly* did something, and you'll always use it the same way:

subject +	present tense avoir +	failli +	any infinitive
Nous	avons	failli	tomber

Nous <u>avons</u> <u>failli</u> tomber.	We almost / nearly fell (down).
---	---------------------------------

### Present tense conjugation of *avoir*

j'ai	nous avons
tu as	vous avez
il - elle - on a	ils - elles ont

## Quizlet: Practice and master these sentences

J'ai <u>failli</u> acheter la lampe.	I almost bought the lamp.
Tu <u>as failli</u> amener les enfants au parc.	You almost brought the children to the park.
Il <u>a failli</u> appeler la police.	He almost called the police.
Nous <u>avons failli</u> casser le vase.	We almost broke the vase.
Tu <u>as failli</u> commencer la leçon.	You almost started the lesson.
Ils <u>ont failli</u> continuer.	They almost continued.
J'ai <u>failli</u> déménager.	I almost moved house.
Tu <u>as failli</u> dépenser l'argent.	You almost spent the money.
Il <u>a failli</u> emprunter la voiture.	He almost borrowed the car.
On <u>a failli</u> étudier le latin.	We almost studied Latin.
Vous <u>avez failli</u> gagner.	You almost won.
Elles <u>ont failli</u> manger les fraises.	They almost ate the strawberries.
J'ai <u>failli</u> oublier le pique-nique.	I almost forgot the picnic.
Tu <u>as failli</u> quitter la maison.	You almost left the house.
Il <u>a failli</u> regarder le film.	He almost watched the film.
Nous <u>avons failli</u> rentrer.	We almost went home.
Vous <u>avez failli</u> rigoler.	You almost laughed.
Ils <u>ont failli</u> terminer le travail.	They almost finished the work.

[SIGN UP FOR MY NEWSLETTER TO GET 34 QUICK FRENCH LESSONS + HANDY FRENCH TIPS AND TRICKS EVERY WEEK!](#)