

FRENCH ADVERB DÉJÀ ALREADY / EVER



LOVE LEARNING LANGUAGES

French Adverb Déjà Can Mean Already or Ever

The French adverb "déjà" is versatile, meaning both "already" and "ever," depending on the context. Understanding its usage requires attention to verb tense, sentence structure, and context.

1. "Déjà" as "Already"

In most contexts, "déjà" means "already." It emphasizes that something has occurred or been true before a particular moment in time.


Rules:

- Often used with affirmative sentences.
- Commonly paired with the past tenses (passé composé, imparfait, plus-que-parfait).
- Can be used with the present tense to emphasize immediacy.

[View the full lesson](#)

[Level B1 French Course for Self Learners](#)

[Intermediate Level French Masterclass](#)

 lovelearninglanguages.com · © 2025 Love Learning Languages

Passé composé:

J'ai déjà fini mes devoirs.
I have already finished my homework.

Il a déjà vu ce film.
He has already seen this movie.

Imparfait:

Quand je suis passé devant sa maison, il était déjà dehors.
When I passed by his house, he was already outside.

Elle lisait déjà quand nous sommes arrivés.
She was already reading when we arrived.

Plus-que-parfait:


Elle avait déjà pris sa décision avant de nous parler.
She had already made her decision before speaking to us.

Nous avons déjà appris cette leçon.
We had already learned this lesson.

[View the full lesson](#)

[Level B1 French Course for Self Learners](#)

[Intermediate Level French Masterclass](#)

 lovelearninglanguages.com · © 2025 Love Learning Languages

Present tense:

Tu es déjà là?
Are you already here?
C'est déjà trop tard.
It's already too late.

2. "Déjà" as "Ever"

"Déjà" can mean "ever" in the context of a question or hypothetical statement, often implying "at any time before now." This usage typically appears in interrogative sentences or with conditional structures.

Rules:

- Used in questions or hypothetical contexts.
- Paired with verbs in the passé composé or present tense.
- Introduced by words like "as-tu" (have you) or "est-ce que."


Passé composé (questions):

As-tu déjà visité Paris?
Have you ever visited Paris?
Est-ce qu'il a déjà essayé ce plat?
Has he ever tried this dish?

[View the full lesson](#)

[Level B1 French Course for Self Learners](#)

[Intermediate Level French Masterclass](#)

 lovelearninglanguages.com · © 2025 Love Learning Languages

Hypothetical (conditional):

Si tu as déjà vécu à l'étranger, tu sais que c'est un grand défi.

If you have ever lived abroad, you know it's a big challenge.

Expressing doubt:

Je me demande s'il a déjà été amoureux.

I wonder if he has ever been in love.

Word Order with "Déjà"

1. Placement in a Sentence

In compound tenses (e.g., passé composé, plus-que-parfait), "déjà" is placed after the helping verb:

- J'ai déjà vu ça.
- I've already seen that.

In the present tense, it appears directly after the verb:

- Tu sais déjà la réponse.
- You already know the answer.

2. With Negation


When negated, "déjà" comes after the negation (pas):

- Tu n'as pas déjà vu ce film?
- Haven't you already seen this film?

[View the full lesson](#)

[Level B1 French Course for Self Learners](#)

[Intermediate Level French Masterclass](#)

 lovelearninglanguages.com · © 2025 Love Learning Languages