

The recent past

Level: A1+ / A2 · 25 min

Objective

By the end, you will form the recent past with venir de + infinitive.

Discover

Compare: Je finis. / Je viens de finir. Does the second sentence place the action just before or after now?

Understand

The recent past describes something that has just happened. It uses present-tense venir + de + infinitive: je viens de finir, nous venons d'arriver. Before a vowel, de contracts to d'.

Examples

- je viens de finir
- tu viens de manger
- elle vient d'arriver
- nous venons de partir
- vous venez de téléphoner
- ils viennent de sortir

Remember

Recent past = present-tense venir + de/d' + infinitive. Je viens de partir. Elle vient d'arriver.

Exercises

1. For "The recent past", sort the items using the lesson rule.
2. "viens": which category does it belong to?
venir conjugué • infinitif
3. "vient": which category does it belong to?
venir conjugué • infinitif
4. "venons": which category does it belong to?
venir conjugué • infinitif
5. "finir": which category does it belong to?
infinitif • venir conjugué
6. "manger": which category does it belong to?
infinitif • venir conjugué
7. "arriver": which category does it belong to?
infinitif • venir conjugué
8. Complete correctly: Je ___ de finir.
9. Complete correctly: Tu ___ de manger.
10. Complete correctly: Elle ___ d'arriver.
11. Complete correctly: Nous ___ de partir.
12. Complete correctly: Vous ___ de téléphoner.
13. Complete correctly: Ils ___ de sortir.
14. For "The recent past": match each item to the correct category.
15. Complete this "The recent past" example: "vous ____ de téléphoner"
16. Rebuild this "The recent past" sentence in a natural order.
viennent / de / ils / sortir
17. Complete this "The recent past" example: "je viens de ____"

18. Rebuild this "The recent past" sentence in a natural order.

tu / manger / de / viens

19. Complete this "The recent past" example: "elle ____ d'arriver"

20. Rebuild this "The recent past" sentence in a natural order.

de / venons / nous / partir

21. Complete this "The recent past" example: "vous venez de ____"

22. Rebuild this "The recent past" sentence in a natural order.

ils / de / viennent / sortir

Answer key

1. viens venir conjugué; vient venir conjugué; venons venir conjugué; finir infinitif; manger infinitif; arriver infinitif

Each item is sorted using the exact criterion introduced in the lesson.

2. venir conjugué

"viens" belongs to the category "venir conjugué".

3. venir conjugué

"vient" belongs to the category "venir conjugué".

4. venir conjugué

"venons" belongs to the category "venir conjugué".

5. infinitif

"finir" belongs to the category "infinitif".

6. infinitif

"manger" belongs to the category "infinitif".

7. infinitif

"arriver" belongs to the category "infinitif".

8. viens

The expected form is "viens".

9. viens

The expected form is "viens".

10. vient

The expected form is "vient".

11. venons

The expected form is "venons".

12. venez

The expected form is "venez".

13. viennent

The expected form is "viennent".

14. viens venir conjugué; vient venir conjugué; finir infinitif; manger infinitif

The matches use the categories practised in the lesson.

15. venez

The missing word is "venez". Full sentence: "vous venez de téléphoner".

16. ils viennent de sortir

The rebuilt sentence is: "ils viennent de sortir".

17. finir

The missing word is "finir". Full sentence: "je viens de finir".

18. tu viens de manger

The rebuilt sentence is: "tu viens de manger".

19. vient

The missing word is "vient". Full sentence: "elle vient d'arriver".

20. nous venons de partir

The rebuilt sentence is: "nous venons de partir".

21. téléphoner

The missing word is "téléphoner". Full sentence: "vous venez de téléphoner".

22. ils viennent de sortir

The rebuilt sentence is: "ils viennent de sortir".