

# LE PASSÉ COMPOSÉ

## ÊTRE HELPING VERB



**Grammar topic:** List of verbs that use être as a helping verb

**Curriculum:** French Level A2

The passé composé of certain French verbs uses the present tense form of être as helping verb. You need to add the past participle of the verb you want to use in the past tense, and be sure to make agreement with the subject.

Many verbs that use être as a helping verb are intransitive verbs, which means they are not followed by direct objects.

Although many of these verbs involve some type of motion, it is important not to confuse verbs that use être as a helping verb with action verbs, because many action verbs use avoir as a helping verb.

Most of the verbs on the following list express a change of place, state, or condition. We can think of verbs that use être as verbs that indicate some sort of coming or going, even in a metaphorical sense (like being born and dying).

Reflexive verbs are not on this list, but it important to not that they also use être as a helping verb in the passé composé.

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## List of the most common verbs that use être as a helping verb:

<b>D</b>	devenir	to become	devenu(e)(s)
<b>R</b>	revenir	to come back	revenu(e)(s)
<b>M</b>	monter	to go up	monté(e)(s)
<b>R</b>	rester	to stay	resté(e)(s)
<b>S</b>	sortir	to go out	sorti(e)(s)
<b>P</b>	partir	to leave	parti(e)(s)
<b>V</b>	venir	to come	venu(e)(s)
<b>A</b>	arriver	to arrive	arrivé(e)(s)
<b>N</b>	naître	to be born	né(e)(s)
<b>D</b>	descendre	to go down	descendu(e)(s)
<b>E</b>	entrer	to enter	entré(e)(s)
<b>R</b>	rentrer	to go home	rentré(e)(s)
<b>T</b>	tomber	to fall (down)	tombé(e)(s)
<b>R</b>	retourner	to go back	retourné(e)(s)
<b>A</b>	aller	to go	allé(e)(s)
<b>M</b>	mourir	to die	mort(e)(s)
<b>P</b>	passer	to pass by	passé(e)(s)

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