

**G** As you have seen, most verbs form the perfect tense using *avoir* as the auxiliary verb, but some verbs use *être* instead. They are mostly verbs to do with movement. Some are opposites.

## Forming the perfect tense

These verbs use part of the present tense of *être* + the past participle:

être	
je suis	nous sommes
tu es	vous êtes
il/elle/on est	ils/elles sont

**★** DR+MRS VAN DER TRAMP spells out the first letters of the 16 verbs in the table and may help you remember them!

English meaning	French verb	past participle
to go / to come	aller / venir	allé / venu
to arrive / to leave	arriver / partir	arrivé / parti
to go in / to go out	entrer / sortir	entré / sorti
to go up / to go down	monter / descendre	monté / descendu
to stay / to fall	rester / tomber	resté / tombé
to be born / to die	naître / mourir	né / mort
to come back	revenir	revenu
to return	retourner	retourné
to become	devenir	devenu
to go back	rentrer	rentré

With these verbs, the past participle may need to change spelling as it must agree with the subject of the verb. So, for a feminine subject of a verb you would add *-e* to the end of the past participle: *elle est tombée* (she fell).

Likewise, for a masculine plural subject, add *-s*: *ils sont partis* (they left).

Add *-es* for a feminine plural subject: *elles sont parties* (they left).

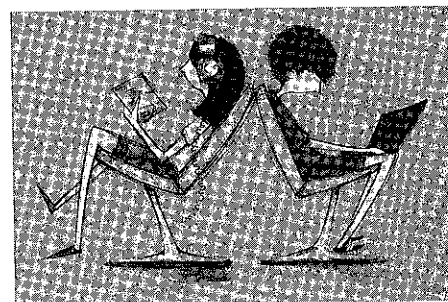
je suis allé(e)	I went	nous sommes allé(e)s	we went
tu es allé(e)	you went	vous êtes allé(e)s	you went
il est allé	he went	ils sont allés	they (m) went
elle est allée	she went	elles sont allées	they (f) went

## 1 Complete these sentences with the correct part of être.

- |                                 |                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Nous _____ arrivés très tard. | 4 Ils _____ montés.                |
| 2 Elle _____ allée en ville.    | 5 Tu _____ tombé dans la rue.      |
| 3 Je _____ rentré chez moi.     | 6 Vous _____ partis à onze heures. |

## 2 Rewrite the sentences using the correct past participle of the verb in brackets.

- Elle est (*arriver*) vers dix heures.  
.....
- Ils sont (*rester*) à la maison.  
.....
- Il est (*sortir*) avec ses copains.  
.....
- Elle est (*partir*) tôt.  
.....
- Nous (m) sommes (*entrer*) dans le salon.  
.....
- Je (f) suis (*aller*) au cinéma.  
.....



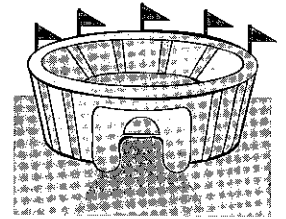
**★** Remember that the past participle must agree with the subject of the verb.

**3 Replace the verb in brackets with the correct form of the perfect tense. Take care as there will always be a part of être and a past participle.**

- 1 Les garçons (*arriver*) hier. ....
- 2 Je (m) (*naître*) en France. ....
- 3 Elle (*mourir*) il y a 20 ans. ....
- 4 Tu (f) (*aller*) au collège. ....
- 5 Elles (*retourner*) en Angleterre. ....
- 6 Il (*partir*) avec son ami. ....

**4 Translate these sentences into English. It will help you to remember that there are two parts to every perfect tense in French.**

- 1 Le soir, je suis allé au stade. ....
- 2 Nous sommes arrivés avant midi. ....
- 3 Mon amie est tombée. ....
- 4 Mon père n'est pas venu. ....
- 5 Je suis sorti avec Louise. ....
- 6 Ils sont restés à la plage. ....



**5 Translate these sentences into French.**

Remember that *went* will be two words in French: a part of *être* and a past participle.

- 1 Yesterday she went to school. ....
- 2 He arrived at the station at 6 o'clock. ....
- 3 We went into the house. ....

**H 6 Now translate this passage into French.**

Last week I went to the museum with my brother. We left the house at 2 o'clock and we arrived in town at 2.30. Afterwards, we went to a restaurant where we stayed on the terrace. I returned home but my brother stayed in town.

Use *rester*.

The verb *partir* needs to be followed by *de* here.

Use *rentrer* in the perfect tense here.

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