

Le Passé-Composé avec "être"



What you already know

- You already learned that Passé-composé is formed using:

an **AUXILIARY** and the **MAIN VERB**

- You have also learned that the AUXILIARY (or helping verb) is a form of the verb

AVOIR

Ex: Hier, nous avons étudié le passé-composé.



What you don't know yet!

- There is one **EXCEPTION** however...
- With “some” verbs, the auxiliary changes from AVOIR to **ÊTRE**

Ex: Hier, je suis allé au match de hockey.



One more thing!!!!

When using “être” as an auxiliary in passé-composé, the **PAST-PARTICIPLE** must **AGREE** with the subject. Take a look!

Henri II est né en 1519.

BUT:

Diane de Poitier est née en 1499.

I

Ils sont tombés amoureux.

Diane et Catherine, elles se sont disputées.



WHICH VERBS ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

● All REFLEXIVE verbs!

Ex: On s'est bien amusés hier!

● And verbs of MOTION

Ex: Elle est rentrée chez elle à minuit.



How can I remember them?

- Reflexive verbs: That's easy! **All** of them are used with the “être” auxiliary. Here are some reflexive verbs you are familiar with: **se lever, se laver, s'habiller, se coucher, se promener, se baigner** and **s'amuser**.

Practice! Click

- Verbs of motion: That's a bit more tricky!
 1. Understand what MOTION is (as opposed to movement).
 2. Use Mnemonic devices (techniques used to trigger your memory) to help you memorize these verbs.



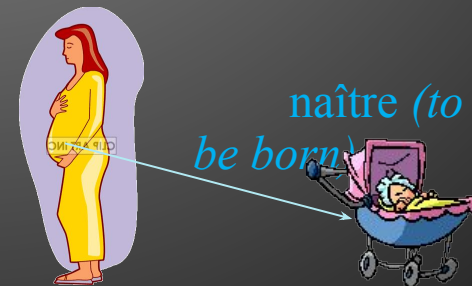
What's a verb of motion?

It's a verb that describes a motion. A motion is when you go from one place to another. It's different from a movement which could happen without necessarily going anywhere.

Verbs describing a movement



Verbs describing a motion

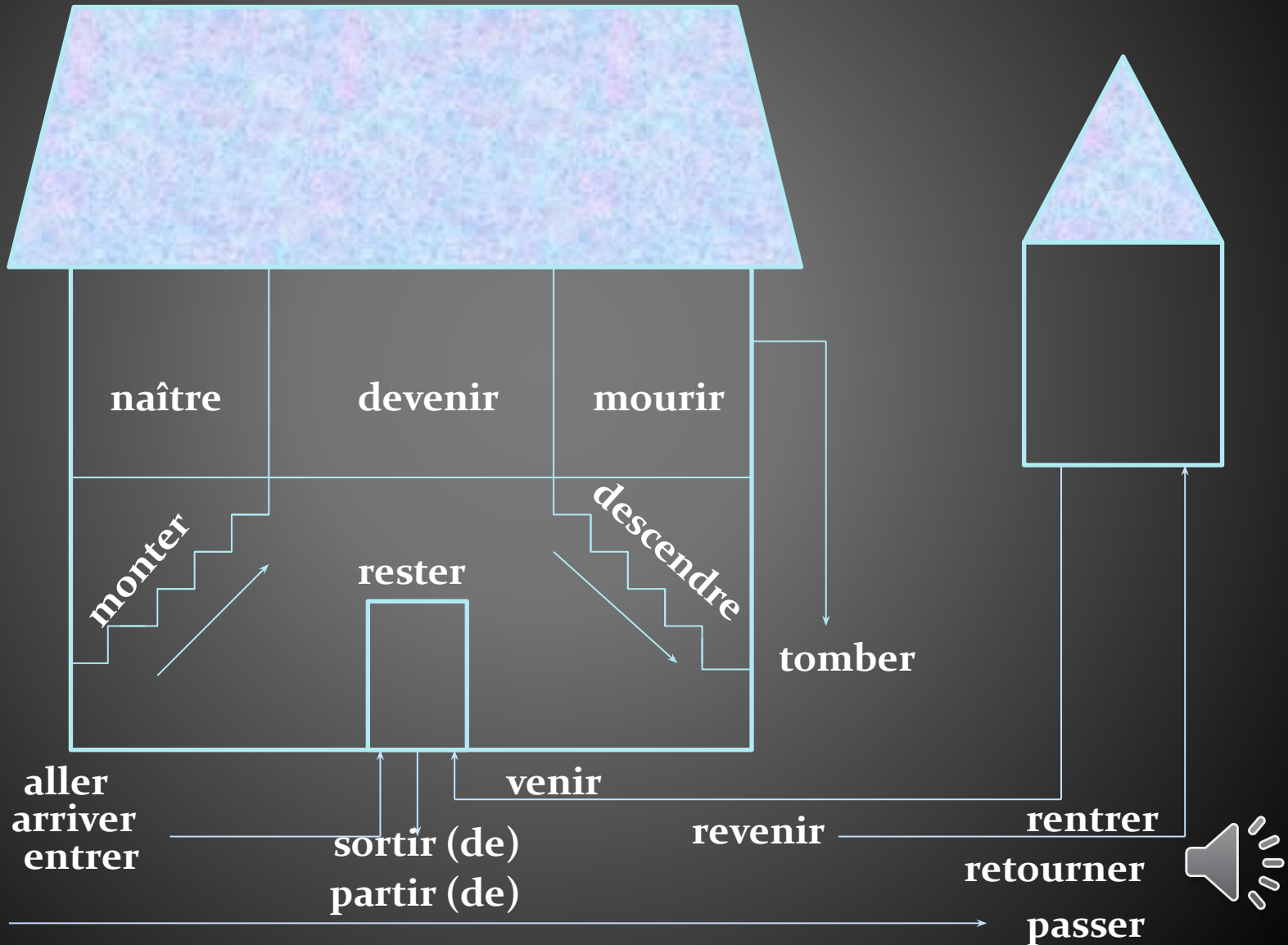


Mnemonic # 1

Infinitives	Past-participles	English meaning
D escendre	descendu	to go down
R entrer	rentré	to go back
M onter	monté	to go up
R etourner	retourné	to return
S ortir	sorti	to go out
V enir	venu	to come
A rriver	arrivé	to arrive
N aître	né	to be born
D evenir	devenu	to become
E ntrer	entré	to enter
R ester	resté	to stay
T omber	tombé	to fall
R evenir	revenu	to come back
A ller	allé	to go
M ourir	mort	to die
P artir	parti	to leave

La Maison d'Être

Mnemonic # 2



So, remember!

- Use “être” instead of “avoir” as an auxiliary with:
 1. All reflexive verbs
 2. Verbs of motion & “rester”

- Make the past-participle agree in :
 1. Gender : add **-e** if the subject is feminine
 2. Number: add **-s** if the subject is plural

[Practice!](#) [Clique ici](#)

