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.

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!

- **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
- courir (to run)
- sauter (to jump)
- visiter (to visit)

Verbs describing a motion
- tomber (to fall)
- descendre (to go down)
- naître (to be born)
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<td>descendu</td>
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<td><strong>A</strong>ller</td>
<td>allé</td>
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<td><strong>M</strong>ourir</td>
<td>mort</td>
<td>to die</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>P</strong>artir</td>
<td>parti</td>
<td>to leave</td>
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La Maison d’Être

Mnemonic # 2

naître  devenir  mourir

monter  rester  descendre  tomber

aller  arriver  entrer  venir  sortir (de)  partir (de)  revenir  rentrer  retourner  passer
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