

“DR MRS VANDERTRAMP”

This mnemonic device provides an easy-to-learn list of virtually all of the verbs that take **être** as a helper verb in the passé composé. (The only other such verbs are the pronominal or reflexive verbs). If you learn this list, by the process of elimination virtually all other French verbs will take **avoir** in the passé composé.

infinitive	past participle
devenir to become	devenu
revenir to come back	revenu
Monter to go up	monté
rester to stay	resté
Sortir to go out	sorti
Venir to come	venu
aller to go	allé
Naître to be born	né
descendre to go down, descend	descendu
Entrer to enter	entré
rentrer to return, re-enter	rentré
tomber to fall	tombé
retourner to return	retourné
arriver to arrive	arrivé
Mourir to die	mort
partir to leave	parti

Remember: the past participle must agree with the subject, in terms of gender and singular/plural. All of these verbs are “action verbs” that you can imagine being done by a person on foot (going, coming, falling, etc.) The two exceptions are mourir and naître.