

Who are Dr. and Mrs. VanderTramp???

There are two very important people who have a lot to do with the Passé Composé in French. Their names are Dr. and Mrs. VanderTramp. Any verb that has something to do with Dr. and Mrs. VanderTramp won't use avoir as it's auxiliary.

E.g. J'ai travaillé pour cinq heures = I have worked for 5 hours

All Dr. and Mrs. VanderTramp's verbs use être instead!

Je suis	I
Tu es	You (one person)
Il est	He
Elle est	She
Vous êtes	You (lots of people)
Nous sommes	We
Ils sont	They
Elles sont	They (just girls)



To help you remember which verbs are Mrs. Van de Tramp's copy this mnemonic into your book. (Each verb represents one letter of her name.)

DEVENIR	=	TO BECOME
REVENIR	=	TO COME BACK
MONTER	=	TO CLIMB, TO GO UP
RETOURNER	=	TO RETURN
SORTIR	=	TO GO OUT
VENIR	=	TO COME
ALLER	=	TO GO
NAÎTRE	=	TO BE BORN
DESCENDRE	=	TO DESCEND
ENTRER	=	TO ENTER
RENTRER	=	TO RE-ENTER
TOMBER	=	TO FALL
RESTER	=	TO STAY
ARRIVER	=	TO ARRIVE
MOURIR	=	TO DIE
PARTIR	=	TO LEAVE

Most Dr. and Mrs. VanderTramp verbs follow the rules for making past participles. Copy and complete the grid below in your book:

Verb	Meaning	Past participle	Meaning
Devenir		devenu	
Revenir		revenu	
Monter			climbed
Retourner	To return		
Sortir	To go out		
Venir		venu	come
Aller			
Naître		né	been born
Descendre	To descend		
Entrer		entré	
Tomber			fallen
Rester			
Arriver	To arrive		
Mourir		mort	died
Partir		parti	

Mrs. Van de Tramp's verbs also have extra rules that the other verbs don't follow. They "agree" with the gender and number of people that you are talking about.

This means that if you say "She has returned" the past participle "agrees" with the feminine pronoun by adding another e on the end of the past participle:

Il est retourné
Elle est retournée

And if you are talking about more than one person you must add an extra s on the end:

Tu est arrivé
Vous êtes arrivés

Now try these questions to help you practice Mrs. Van de Tramp's rules:

1. Écrivez les phrases suivantes en français;

(Write the following sentences in French)

- a. I have gone
- b. I have stayed
- c. I have returned
- d. I have fallen
- e. I have entered
- f. I have descended
- g. I have left

2. Changez les phrases suivantes de "Il..." à "Elle...":

(Change the following sentences from He... to She...)

- a. Il est arrivé
- b. Il est descendu
- c. Il est sorti
- d. Il est venu
- e. Il est rentré
- f. Il est né

3. Changez les phrases suivantes de "Il..." à "Ils...":

(Change the following sentences from He... to They...)

- a. Il est resté
- b. Il est tombé
- c. Il est mort
- d. Il est allé
- e. Il est monté

4. Changez les phrases suivantes de "Il..." à "Elles...":

(Change the following sentences from He... to They ... (just girls))

- a. Il est arrivé
- b. Il est descendu
- c. Il est sorti
- d. Il est mort
- e. Il est allé
- f. Il est monté

