

Être-Verbs (1)

Keep this as a reference as long as you need it.

Dr. and Mrs. Vandertrampp

In textbooks and on the Internet you will find this (bing .com) if you google “Dr. and Mrs. Vandertramp”. I add a p for the verb passer. These are the verbs that take forms of être to make the passé composé instead of forms of avoir.

Il est d evenu	He became or has become . . .
r entré	He (has) returned.
&	
m ort	He (has) died.
r evenu	He (has) returned.
s orti	He went (has gone) out.
v enu	He came or has come.
a llé	He went or has gone.
n é	He was born.
d escendu	He (has) descended (gone/come down).
e ntré	He (has) entered.
r esté	He (has) stayed / remained.
t ombé	He fell or has fallen.
r etourné	He (has) returned.
a rrivé	He (has) arrived.
m onté	He went (has gone) up.
p arti	He (has) left.
p assé	He (has) passed by.

You obviously add **e** if the subject is feminine (Elle est rentrée). You will notice that **rentré**, **retourné**, and **revenu** are usually synonyms (some slight differences in usage).

What they all have in common: 1) they are intransitive (they can't take an object); 2) they show a change of position (most of them) or condition (mort, devenu, né).

A big exception is **resté** (*): it shows no change of anything. Curiously, Italian and German also have **être**-verbs, and they also include “remained”

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in this list. (Ich **bin** geblieben; (Io) **sono** rimasto.) But their lists are *much* bigger than the French one; they include any verb that shows any change.

Some of these verbs, when they change their meaning and are transitive, are no longer **être**-verbs; they take **avoir** as the auxiliary (helping) verb.

Il **a sorti** son mouchoir. He took out his handkerchief.

On **a monté** le piano. They took / brought the piano upstairs.

Il **a retourné** le livre. He returned the book.

Il **a descendu** les escaliers. He went down the stairs.

Il m'**a passé** le sel. He passed me the salt.