In this edition: perfect tense: more *être* verbs

Lesson 57 Notes

Je suis tombé amoureux
More verbs that take *être* as their auxiliary verb in the perfect tense

Programme Notes

Welcome to Coffee Break French, the podcast aimed at independent learners of French. Our regular podcasts will introduce you to the French language in easy steps.

Last week we looked at two verbs which take *être* as their auxiliary verb in the perfect tense: *aller* ("to go") and *venir* ("to come"). In this week's lesson, we are going to look at the other *être* verbs. There are fifteen in total.

Before looking at the other *être* verbs, Mark asks Anna to translate two phrases to test her knowledge of *aller* and *venir* in the perfect tense:

| I went to the swimming pool yesterday | **je suis allé(e) à la piscine hier** |
| the girls came to the concert | **les filles sont venues au concert** |

Remember that the past participle has to agree with the subject. The table below reminds us of the rules of agreement.

Subject	Agreement
masculine	add nothing
feminine	add -*e*
masculine plural	add -*s*
feminine plural	add -*es*
masc & fem plural	add -*s*

Let's now look at the other verbs that take *être* as their auxiliary verb in the perfect tense. There are a number of different ways to remember these verbs. The way we are going to introduce them is as five pairs of verbs, then a group of four verbs, then one last verb on its own. The five pairs of verbs are opposites, eg. *aller* and *venir* ("to go" and "to come"). The group of four verbs all start with 'r' (the four Rs) and finally *tomber* can be thought of as making the whole "pile" of verbs fall down at the end!

*The verbs are listed again on page 4 of the lesson guide as if they are stacked up to make a "pile".

The verbs are listed below in their groups, followed by a table which gives their meanings and past participles. Some of the past participles are irregular but most are regular.

aller, venir,

entrer, sortir,

arriver, partir,

monter, descendre,

naître, mourir,

rentrer, retourner, revenir, rester,

tomber

Infinitive	Meaning	Past Participle	Regular / Irregular
aller	to go	allé	regular
venir	to come	venu	irregular
entrer	to enter / to go in	entré	regular
sortir	to exit / to go out	sorti	regular
arriver	to arrive	arrivé	regular
partir	to leave	parti	regular
monter	to climb / to go up	monté	regular
descendre	to descend / to come down	descendu	regular
naître	to be born	né	irregular
mourir	to die	mort	irregular
rentrer	to return somewhere (eg. to go home / to go back to school)	rentré	regular
retourner	to return	retourné	regular
revenir	to come back	revenu	irregular
rester	to stay	resté	regular
tomber	to fall	tombé	regular

These 15 *être* verbs are sometimes called the "verbs of motion" as many people see them as being linked to motion in some way. However for a few of them, the "motion" part is not as obvious, eg. *naître* ("to be born") and *rester* ("to stay").

Note that *rentrer* is linked to *entrer* so both past participles are regular. In the same way, *revenir* is linked to *venir*. Since *venir* has an irregular past participle (*venu)*, *revenir* follows this same pattern. So the past participle of *revenir* is *revenu*.

Remember that the past participle has to agree with the subject of the phrase. So to say "I arrived" or "I have arrived", Mark would say *je suis arrivé* but Anna would say *je suis arrivée*.

Below are some more examples of *être* verbs in the perfect tense.

les garçons sont arrivés

the boys arrived / the boys have arrived

les filles sont arrivées

the girls arrived / the boys have arrived

nous sommes venu(e)s

we came / we have come

je suis entré(e) dans le magasin

I went into the shop / I have gone into the shop

je suis sorti(e)

I went out / I left / I have gone out

il est arrivé

he arrived / he has arrived

vous êtes parti(e)s

you (plural) left / you (plural) have left

je suis monté(e)

I went up / I climbed / I have gone up

tu es descendu(e)

you (singular, informal) went down

je suis né(e)

I was born

elle est morte

she died / she has died

il est retourné
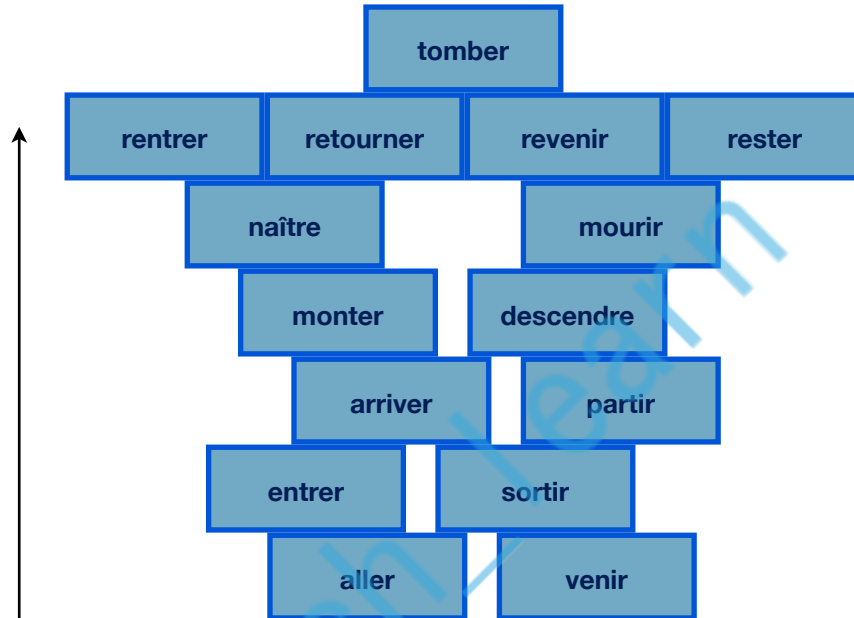
he returned / he has returned

elle est revenue

she came back / she has come back

je suis tombé(e) amoureux/amoureuse

I fell in love / I have fallen in love

*The fifteen *être* verbs are listed below, this time as if they are stacked up in pairs, then the group of four Rs then finally *tomber* on the top which makes the whole pile "fall down."

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                        tomber

        rentrer    retourner    revenir    rester

              naître            mourir

                monter        descendre

                  arriver        partir

              entrer        sortir

                  aller        venir
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Note that the information listed below is part of the test in the bonus podcast. We would advise you to listen to the podcast before you read the content below.

Bonus episode test		
1	**Elle est arrivée à midi.**	She arrived at noon.
2	**Ils sont descendus en ville.**	They went down into town.
3	**Est-ce que tu es parti ce matin?**	Did you leave this morning?
4	**Les deux filles sont entrées dans la maison.**	The two girls went into the house.
5	**Hier soir je suis sorti avec Élise.**	Last night I went out with Élise.
6	**The three boys came out of the church.**	Les trois garçons sont sortis de l'église.
7	**I returned to the supermarket.**	Je suis retourné au supermarché.
8	**We got home this morning.**	Nous sommes rentrés ce matin.
9	**He left when Cécile arrived.**	Il est parti quand Cécile est arrivée.
10	**Why did you come back?**	Pourquoi êtes-vous revenus? / Pourquoi est-ce que vous êtes revenus? / Vous êtes revenus pourquoi?

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