

Le passé composé: être ou avoir 288-89

Talking about past actions

Verbs like **descendre, monter, passer, rentrer, and sortir** are conjugated with **être** when they are not followed by a direct object. They are conjugated with **avoir**, however, when followed by a direct object. Note the difference in meaning in the following sentences.

Marie est descendue.
(Mary went downstairs.)

Elle a descendu ses bagages.
(She brought her luggage down.)

Ils sont sortis hier.
(They went out yesterday.)

Ils ont sorti leurs billets.
(They took out their tickets.)

Complétez au passé composé:

Les deux copines _____ (sortir) de la maison à neuf heures. Elles _____ (sortir) tous leurs bagages. Elles _____ (attendre) un taxi. Quand le taxi _____ (arriver), elles _____ (mettre) leurs bagages dans le coffre. Puis les deux filles _____ (monter) dans le taxi. Quand elles _____ (arriver) à la gare, elles _____ (descendre) du taxi. Elles _____ (sortir) leurs billets et _____ (monter) dans le train.

Et maintenant traduisez:

Mary went upstairs. She did not go downstairs.

She went out with her friends.

Paul took an exam.

I went home alone.

They took out their notebooks.
