**Mrs. Van der Tramp**

The vast majority of verbs form the perfect tense (and other compound tenses) with *‘avoir’* as their auxiliary. However, there are 14 verbs that are constructed using *‘être’,* such as *‘arriver’.* This means that ‘I arrived’ translates to *‘Je suis arrivé(e)’.* Note that depending on whether the subject of the verb is feminine or plural, then the past participle has to agree by adding an extra ‘e’, ‘s’, or ‘es’ accordingly. I.e. if the verb is referring to someone who is male, a group, someone who is female, or a group of women only, agreements have to be made.

Knowing this is a major key in your French study, as some of these tricky *être-*taking, agreement-needing verbs are some of the most important and commonly occurring of all. Here are the 14 *‘être’* verbs, which you can remember by calling them the ‘MRS VAN-DER-TRAMP’ verbs, as they begin with the letters of this fictional lady’s name. (Agreements have been marked in bold – adding an **‘*e’*** is requiredwhen referring to the feminine in the singular, an ***‘s’*** is used when referring to the masculine / the masculine and feminine in the plural, and ***‘es’*** is used when referring to the feminine in the plural.

**M**ONTER *Je suis monté/monté****e* (I climbed/went up)**

**R**ESTER *Tu es resté/resté****e* (You stayed)**

**S**ORTIR *Il est sorti/Elle a sorti****e* (He/She went out)**

**V**ENIR *Nous sommes venu****s****/venu****es* (We came)**

**A**LLER *Vous êtes allé/allé****e****/allé****s****/allé****es*****(You went)**

**N**AÎTRE *Ils sont né****s****/né****es* (They were born)**

**D**ESCENDRE *Je suis descendu/descendu****e* (I descended)**

**E**NTRER *Tu es entré/entré****e* (You entered)**

**R**ENTRER *Il est rentré/Elle est rentré****e* (He/She returned)**

**T**OMBER *Nous sommes tombé****s****/tombé****es* (We fell)**

**R**ETOURNER *Vous êtes retourné/retourné****e****/retourné****s****/retourné****es* (You returned)**

**A**RRIVER *Ils sont arrivé****s****/arriv****es* (They arrived)**

**M**OURIR *Je suis mort/mort****e* (I died)**

**P**ARTIR *Tu est parti/parti****e* (You left)**