

A **verb** is a doing, being or having word. e.g. to speak, to eat, to be.
Reflexive verbs in French are verbs which usually mean an action done to yourself (e.g. straighten your hair, brush your teeth, etc.). Many are regular -er verbs and they need an extra **reflexive pronoun**.

Subject pronouns	Reflexive pronoun
je (I)	me
tu (you)	te
il (he), elle (she), on (we)	se
nous (we)	nous
vous (you) (pl)	vous
ils/elles (they)	se

Examples:

Se lisser les cheveux - to straighten one's hair
 Je **me** lisse les cheveux > I straighten my hair
Se brosser les dents – to brush one's teeth
 On **se** brosse les dents > we brush our teeth
Se doucher - to shower
 Tu **te** douches le matin ou le soir? Do you shower in the morning or in the evening?

The perfect tense:

You can talk about the past by using the **perfect tense** (*le passé composé*). The perfect tense has 3 parts:

- 1. The subject pronoun (eg. Je, nous)**
- 2. The auxiliary (avoir or être)**
- 3. The past participle**

To form the past participle, take off the infinitive endings (**-er, -ir or -re**) and add the following endings instead:

- ER verbs > - é**
- IR verbs > - i**
- RE verbs > - u**

Examples:

J'**ai** achet**é** des baskets au centre commercial. I **have bought** trainers at the shopping mall.

Hier il **a** jou**é** au foot dans le parc. Yesterday he **played** football in the park.

Tu **es** all**é** en ville hier? You **went** to town yesterday?

The 2 auxiliary verbs are AVOIR or ÊTRE.

- Use **AVOIR** with most verbs.
- Use **ÊTRE** with **reflexive verbs** and **DR. MRS VANDERTRAMP verbs**. [*Devenir* (to become), *Revenir* (to come back), *Monter* (to go up), *Retourner* (to return), *Sortir* (to go out), *Venir* (to come), *Aller* (to go), *Naître* (to be born), *Descendre* (to go down), *Entrer* (to enter), *Rentrer* (to go home/to return), *Tomber* (to fall), *Rester* (to remain), *Arriver* (to arrive), *Mourir* (to die), *Partir* (to leave).]

AVOIR	ÊTRE
J'ai	Je suis
Tu as	Tu es
Il /elle a	Il /elle est
Nous avons	Nous sommes
Vous avez	Vous êtes
Ils /elles ont	Ils /elles sont

Remember!

When using être to form the perfect tense your past participle must agree with the subject pronoun.

Add –e if feminine e.g. elle est all**é**

Add –s if plural e.g. ils sont all**é**s

Add –es if feminine plural eg. elles sont all**é**es