Verbes Auxiliaires variables - Variable Auxiliary Verbs

- Several verbs use *être* as the auxiliary (helping) verb in the passé composé, rather than avoir. These verbs without a direct object are *intransitive* verbs.

   Ex: Elle est montée très vite.   Il est sorti ce soir.   Je suis retourné au magasin.

- Eight (8) verbs can use *avoir* or *être*, depending on the meaning.

When there is a direct object, the verb is *transitive* and uses *avoir* as the auxiliary.

   Ex: Elle a monté les valises.   Il a sorti de l'argent.   J'ai retourné la chemise.

- Verbs that use both avoir and être:

	Intransitive (être)	Transitive (avoir)
descendre	to go down	to take down
entrer	to go in	to take/bring/put in
monter	to go up	to take up
passer	to pass by/ go past	to go through, to spend time
rentrer	to go home	to take back inside
repasser	to go by again	several meanings, see below*
retourner	to go back	to take back
sortir	to go out	to take out

   Ex. Je *suis* passé devant la porte.   I passed by/ went past the door.
       Passer is followed by a preposition.

       Passer is more often used transitively:

       Il a passé le sel à sa soeur.   He passed the salt to his sister.

       J'*ai* passé un mois à Rouen. I spent a month in Rouen.

   *Repasser with a direct object has several meanings: To come, go back through, to iron, to pass (around) again, to repeat (a song), to retake (a test), to show again.